



## **Associate Sonia Gutiérrez**

(1944 – 2014)

Sonia Gutierrez was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on January 31, 1944. Her father was from Spain and her mother from the Dominican Republic, so Sonia developed a love for those two cultures. She attended school Colegio Santo Domingo and became very fond of the North American Adrian Dominican Sisters who were teaching there.

The Dominican spirit stayed alive in Sonia throughout her life. She was a well-rounded educator. She married Carlos Mejia, an engineer from the Dominican Republic. They had five children: three boys and two girls.

After caring for her mother, who died after a long illness, Sonia became an Adrian Dominican Associate in 2007. She dedicated herself to this group wholeheartedly, always the first one at the meetings and very active in her ministry toward the poor.

Sonia's last few years were very sad. She suffered greatly from the death of one of her sons in 2008 and cared for her dear husband, who died in 2010. Just a few months after he died, Sonia become ill with kidney cancer. Hoping to get cured, she had one of her kidneys removed, but the cancer came back. Sonia died on July 18, 2014.

Sister Rosa Monique Peña, OP, offered the following reflection:

*Sonia was an amazing person. Since I've known her – for more than 60 years – she was a woman who radiated joy, compassion, understanding, equanimity, and a profound spirituality. This, more than anything else, was the anchor that sustained her throughout the many vicissitudes life dished out to her.*

*As an Associate, her name was equated to leadership and responsibility. The entire group looked to her for inspiration and a good time. Anyone meeting her for the first time would feel instantly drawn to her, for she emanated an incredible, holy warmth. All of us, her classmates, miss her tremendously. May God bless us through her!*