

## OBITUARY



**SISTER STELLA PHUA, OSB**  
**February 20, 1938 - December 7, 2011**

**"I will praise the Lord all my days: make music to God while I live".**

(Ps. 146: 1)

Sr. Stella loved to sing. Her life as a Missionary Benedictine Sister was spent primarily singing the divine praises of God wherever she was assigned. On Dec. 7, eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception she was called home by the Father and surely her soul flew to heaven singing the praises to our Blessed Mother.

Lolita was born on Feb. 20, 1938 in Palompon, Leyte. Her parents Felix Phua and Prisca Padro had 9 children, 6 boys and 3 girls. Lolita was the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the family. Now with her passing away only 5 siblings are alive and they were all present during the funeral Mass for Sr. Stella to pay their last respects and love to her.

Her early years of schooling was spent in her native town. As a young lady she was active in church organization as President of the Sodality of our Lady. God gave her a beautiful voice and her siblings all love to sing together. Surely, what brought Sr. Stella to the Benedictine convent was her love for the Divine Office which we sing everyday. Having finished a Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in accounting from the Colegio de San Jose Recoletos in Cebu, she could have started a business of her own or help in the family's business but with a determination to follow God's call she entered our novitiate on May 2, 1963. After 3 years of religious training she was allowed to pronounce her first Vows on June 6, 1966 and in 1971 she finally committed herself to a life of service to God and his people.

As a young sister in Manila she worked in the Procure's Office and thus got the training and the competence to handle business and finance matters in different stations of the Priory. Sr. Stella held the position of treasurer. All her life she tackled the difficulties and challenges of taking care of the finances in our different houses and schools. She was able to overcome them with an even temper, kindness and discipline. In the succeeding years after her profession, she found herself working in Legaspi, Marikina, Angeles, Tabunok in Cebu, Bacolod, Tacloban school and hospital, Formation house and lastly in Ormoc.

Because of her God-given beautiful voice Sr. Stella was always in demand to sing during our community programs and gatherings with her favorite Filipino "Kundimans". She could have been an opera singer if given the chance to study voice culture. One can admire and be amazed when she can sing effortlessly the high "la" in the song "Mutya ng Pasig". Among her things we found recordings of Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, and other singers. Truly, Sr. Stella must be singing now endlessly in heaven with the choirs of angels praising God.

Another hobby of Sr. Stella which is worth mentioning is her avid reading of best-seller books. She frequented the library to get the most recent ones. Even when she was in the hospital she still brought along some books to read.

In October she made her annual retreat in St. Benedict's Home in Marikina. She still went back to Ormoc to finish her accounting work but she already felt bad and weak so she was brought to Tacloban hospital for 2 weeks. Because her illness was rather complicated she was confined in Manila Medical Center for medical tests and treatment. With failure to function of her important organs Sr. Stella was freed from her suffering and pain when God called her finally home.

May God reward you, dear Sr. Stella, for being a faithful steward in the way you handled the things of the Lord. You gave an example of orderliness and kindness to those under your care. You were a support to the community and manifested fidelity to our monastic life. You are now with God and continue your singing of His praises forever. May you now rest in peace.

Mother Prioress & Community  
Priory House, Manila

