



Laura Maria Naso

March 19, 1923 - December 31, 2019

Mrs. Laura Naso, of Charlotte, passed away on Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

Oh, that beautiful woman. Laura, Doña Laura, Laurita, Laurita Maria, Lita, Dita, Mamita. However you might have regarded her, you're likely thinking the same ... she sure lived fully. Perhaps leaving you a bit wide-eyed, but certainly, with a smile. Whether you knew her for a lifetime, or for a mere moment, she inevitably drew some kind of an emotion from you. You may have loved her, admired her, thanked her for a kindness, forgiven her for one of those infamous "corrections," or rolled an eye over whatever commotion she might've stirred. You may have been in awe of her irrepressible curiosity, her incessant need to do this or that (and when she could no longer do it herself, to demand it of others!), or envied the flawless milk white skin which never seemed to wrinkle, even at 96.

Above all, she left you with a sense of Joy. Because at her most essential self, Christ lived, the ultimate source of Joy. Deeply human and deeply devoted to her Faith, Laura left a legacy that reflected a heart that lived and touched and loved. And, ultimately, a heart entrusted to her greatest love, our Lord.

So, the place she'd like most that we reference her life is through the teachings of the Scripture and Tradition of her beloved Roman Catholic Church.

In *Three Philosophies of Life*, Peter Kreeft writes:

When God wanted to inspire some philosophy, why would he inspire anything but the best? But the best is not necessarily the most sophisticated ... And we see this principle at work throughout the Bible: the striking contrast between the primitiveness of the poet and the profundity of the poem, between the smallness of the singer and the greatness of the song, between the absence of human sophistication and the presence of divine sophia, divine wisdom. Something is always breaking through the words, something you can never fully grasp but also never fully miss if only you stand there with uncovered soul. Stand in the divine rain, and seeds of wisdom will grow in your soul.

Kreeft continues to suggest, “[t]here are ultimately only three philosophies of life ... each one is represented by one of the following books of the Bible ...”. Life as vanity, manifested in Ecclesiastes. Life as suffering, detailed in Job. Life as love, celebrated in Song of Songs. Those who knew Laura might well remark she lived those three lives. And blessedly, left this temporal life in all the hopeful splendor that is Song of Songs!

Laura Maria Mora Quintana Naso was born in Quito, Ecuador, at home, to her parents, Mercedes Quintana Perreño and Alfonso Mora Cueva on March 19, 1923 (Or, February 8, we’ve never been quite sure. Almost a century ago in the mountains of the Andes, simpler ways and traditions bumped bureaucracy aside – perhaps her father was off celebrating birth of his first daughter, the one Laura would like to think was his favorite!)

The third eldest of ten children, five boys and five girls, Laura proudly utilized and savored her place as first-born daughter. She demanded of her siblings what she demanded of herself - excellence. As her only surviving sibling, Maria, asserted, “with ten children, there had to be two mothers!” Grieving her loss from the distance, in Ecuador, Maria shared how her sister taught her the fundamentals of life, with firmness of discipline, drenched in the tenderness of love. And with humor, always humor. Love of Christ at the core of these teachings - kindness and hospitality, neatness and order - gave life to the little troupe of siblings Laura helped raise. Laura also kindled a very special affection for her niece, Susana Mora Zambrano, daughter of her beloved brother Armando and sister-in-law Emma.

But before all of that, Laurita played along with her classmates as an elementary school student at the Colegio de Madres de la Caridad in Riobamba, Ecuador. She continued her Catholic formation with Las Madres Dominicanas in her beloved city of Cuenca. Behind that perfect poise and posture, instilled by her strict and refined Spanish mother, Laura’s irrepressible sense of humor endeared her friends (likely the nuns as well!). And, with the passage of time, the irreverent antics with childhood friends took on an infectiously humorous life of its own. She may have demanded the respect of a mother figure from her beloved sisters – Irene, Maria, Magdalena and Odeida – but the real secret was that Laura was a cutup, always searching for the next laugh.

Later, as an eager apprentice with her father, a tailor of leather goods in Quito, Laura studied fashion couture designing and sewing fine apparel sold in his store. (Diva that she was, Laura often reminisced how she’d tear up patterns, so they’d remain originals.) Business-minded and fiercely independent, Laura rose to a professional life outside the family business, working at the Banco Popular. A band of friendships formed at the bank,

with yet another load of stories of adventures and antics that would bring all those who listened a sense of the splendid life of Laura Mora.

While still single, unsure of her future, she spent three transformative years studying and living with a French order of Dominican Sisters. Though she never took vows, Laura's life remained firmly centered on the Faith, with an abiding and tender love for Christ and His Blessed Mother.

In her mid-thirties, Laura and a few of her friends set off for an extended traveling adventure to the United States, with plans to follow to Europe. Well, the story goes, the women never made it to Europe. Laura met her "Eddie," and the next chapter of her life would begin. Eddie and Laura reveled in all the allure and excitement of New York City, marrying on March 19, 1960, bearing two children, Paul and Mary Anne shortly thereafter.

Laura and Eddie delighted in taking their little ones to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens across the street from their apartment, but soon moved to the open spaces of Staten Island. There, Laura's entrepreneurial spirit led her to a twenty-year career as the quintessential, pretty smelling Avon lady. Already enamored by Laura's heart for friendship, Eddie happily partook in a very busy social calendar with old friends from Ecuador who were now diplomats living in the City. Laura's hospitality extended to the packs of friends Paul and Mary Anne would bring home, the kids always happy to find something cooking on the stove. Laura's habit of attending daily mass from convent days continued, her car usually full of other older ladies who needed a ride to church.

As much as Laura loved her children, she'd often remark about the grandness of the love she had for her five grandchildren. She put her sewing talents to work for them, continually creating them matching outfits, frilly dresses, soft pajamas and nightgowns, and Halloween costumes. And when she was not sewing or praying or cooking, she was reading poetry from Pablo Neruda or watching the Catholic Channel, EWTN, on television.

If he'd known her, Peter Kreeft might have observed that Laura stood with an uncovered soul. That she stood in the divine rain. With the seeds of wisdom grown in her soul.

Laura Maria Mora Quintana Naso remains alive in the promises made in the ultimate philosophy of life and in the poetry of Song of Songs, the life of Love in Christ. And if her dream of Eternity's beauty has been realized, amidst a garden of roses and hydrangeas and tulips and sunflowers and lilies and lavender, and all bursting with an infinitely colorful heavenly rainbow – her Eddie there to welcome her with a bouquet. To the family she leaves behind, we are graced to follow in the brave footsteps of our beloved matriarch.

Laura was predeceased by her husband Edward George Naso; brothers, Armando, Alfonso, Francisco, Alberto, and Marcelo; and sisters, Irene, Magdalena, and Odeida.

Laura is survived by her children Mary Anne Gauthier and her husband Jon Gauthier; her son Paul Naso and partner, Nancy Freeman; her grandchildren, Laura, Melissa and Jon Philip Gauthier; Vanessa and Andrew Naso; her sole surviving sister, Maria Mora Serrano; her former daughter-in-law, Sara Naso; and dozens of nieces and nephews spread all around the world.

The family would like to express special gratitude to Dr. Dael Waxman for his very kind care for Laura as her Primary Care Physician and for Edward; to Father Timothy Reid of St. Ann Catholic Church for the constancy of his pastoral care to Laura and Edward, especially over the last decade; to Margaret Lyons of Charlotte Hospice and Palliative Care for compassionately and capably enabling the family to care for Laura at home; to Fari Saballos for decades of family friendship, caring, and service; and finally, to Dayana Aguila Pérez for her singular spirited and tender care at the end of Laura's life.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Laura will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2019, preceded by recitation of the Holy Rosary at St. Matthew Catholic Church, in Charlotte, NC. The Rosary will be recited and Mass celebrated by Father Peter Ascik who gently tended to Laura's spiritual needs over the last year. Burial will be followed at Forest Lawn East in Matthews, NC. A reception will follow at the home of Mary Anne and Jon Gauthier at 5 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Laura's memory to her favorite charity, MiraVia, a home for expectant mothers in need.

Mail check to:

MiraVia

PO Box 11499

Charlotte, NC 28220

Or donate now online to:

Mira-via.org/you-can-help/contribute/

Cemetery

Events

Forest Lawn East

3700 Forest Lawn Drive
Matthews, NC, 28104

JAN

7

Funeral Mass

01:00PM

St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte, NC, US,
28277

Comments



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Laura Maria Naso.



January 07 at 01:35 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Laura Maria Naso.



January 07 at 09:04 AM



“ Angels Watch - Peaceful Reflections Angel was purchased for the family of Laura Maria Naso.



January 07 at 08:52 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Laura Maria Naso.



January 07 at 06:18 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Laura Maria Naso.



January 06 at 05:07 PM