



## Sister Lavinia Anna Maria Henry SM

1954 – 2023

Sister Lavinia Anna Maria Henry was born in Lautoka Hospital on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1954 to Thomas Henry and Lice Lilo. She was the eleventh child of the thirteen children.

She is survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and her sister Luisa, her brothers, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law.

Nia as we called her attended Mount Saint Mary's Nadi for her Primary Education and apparently did not attend any Secondary school. As a young energetic youth she decided to join the Miss Nadi festival where she became a contestant. She did not dream that she won the contestant which she was awarded a prize to fly to Australia. It was there that she decided to be a Marist Sister. As a Sister she was trained as a Formator and went for mission to Colombia and other countries where the Congregation is and where the need was increasingly great.

Sr Lavinia took on the role of Marist Sisters leadership for Fiji beginning on 2015-2021. Most of her religious life was spent in Fiji either taking up formation or community leader. Her ministry was unique as she took up pastoral care of women prisoners and also organizing retreats for the ARM (Archdiocese of Suva Retreat Ministry) in the Archdiocese of Suva.

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong was the main celebrant for Nia's requiem mass with sixteen priests from the Archdiocese of Suva.

Through the encouragement of His Grace, Archbishop Peter, Sr Mariana Tevurega was asked to deliver the homily at Nia's funeral Mass which is a fitting tribute to her 48 years of Marist life.

## Homily (Excerpts from Sisters)

God's ways are not our ways. God calls us in his own time. We believe that Nia is no longer suffering but enjoying the fullness of life with Mary, her family that has gone before her and all our Marist saints. Nia's death is such a shock, and it will be felt far and wide.

The book of wisdom tells us that she was a virtuous woman and died before her time. In her life she sought to please God so God loved her dearly. She has come to perfection in so short a while and her soul was pleasing to the Lord.

This mass is being celebrated in thanksgiving for her life. We will miss her greatly as will our small Marist Congregation. Sr Lavinia was a fine motivated woman, one with so much energy and love that she gave so willingly to all who came into contact with her. Nia was full of life and very committed to the mission of the Congregation. She had a deep love for Mother Foundress and she was always ready to go wherever the need was greatest. She was always on the move, looking for ways to serve and give herself for others. God will surely reward her greatly for her wholehearted committed and faithfulness. We feel sure she is looking down on us now, with a smile on her face suggesting ways for us to move on. We pray for the Henry family, the Marist Sisters at this time and for all who have been touched by her lovely spirit of joy in the Lord, of kindness and friendship, her wonderful sense of humour and her wisdom without measure. Lavinia is with God and at peace.

We praise and thank God for all that has been and what is to come. May Nia enjoy the reward of a life live to the full. We can see Nia beaming at Jesus at the whole company of heaven saying "awesome".

May Sr Lavinia Anna Maria  
Henry  
rest in peace.

