

A Word About Angelia, On the Occasion of Her 100th Birthday by Sister Joeline Santiago, SSS One of the American SSS who lived and worked in Taiwan

This very summer, I went to the funeral of a former student's grandmother. The Chans were so thrilled that a Sister of Social Service came to respect this passing of an elder, to the point that they began telling stories of how the Chans and the Sisters met. In the early 1950s, Sister Angelia Ying worked in a Chinese center with families that had just moved to Los Angeles from all over Mainland China. Their mother, a very young and shy teenager, was taught about the Faith by Sister Angelia. Word has it that she met her husband through Angelia. These two were actively involved in the Christian community that Angelia had built which is ongoing today. Their marriage lasted over 60 years, and most profoundly, their Faith bloomed through their sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

When I was in Taiwan from 1979 through 1984, Angelia was my primary introduction to beautiful places and wonderful people. She loved to travel and often set up tours around the island with her Senior citizens. Of course, I went along on these trips to help with my language skills and orientation to the island culture. She had a way about her that made it so no one could deny a request, and she knew aspects of life that made it exciting to participate in her antics.

She was also very influential in introducing two or maybe three of our young sisters in Taipei to religious life. She and her friend, Fr. John Mao, worked to foster vocations among their young parishioners. They were a powerhouse together — for the Faith and religious life. Even God would have a hard time denying their efforts!

Finally, when I think of Angelia, I remember our walks to daily Mass — every morning, one step at a time, always early, always smiling. On the way home, we would consider buying something for breakfast. She didn't eat much, but you could always count on her thinking of others' needs. That's the way she was.

My days and years in Taiwan were blessed. She was a big part of that blessing to myself and all that she gave me. She never shied away from sharing the blessings of life that she received from her family and her God with her community.

Sister Angelia - Happy 100th birthday!