

Sr. Mary Angelo Lobato, RSM

Teacher, College Instructor,
Artist, Advocate for equality and
a Sister of Mercy for 78 years



May 15, 1923 - June 26, 2020

Highlights

- 1923 Born to Juan and Sabina (Madrid) Lobato in the small Spanish Mission of San Isidro, CO.
- 1961 Received Master's of Fine Arts
- 1983 Awarded the prestigious Cunningham award promoting equality
- 1987 Served as Director of Catholic Charities of San Francisco and opened housing for homeless families with AIDS.
- 2003 Served 13 years as an active member of St Joseph on the Rio Grande Parish



Time is precious, and so am I

Recalling a happy childhood dedicated to hard labor in the fields, Sister Mary Angelo (Angie) Lobato began school with the Sisters of Mercy in San Luis. So deeply impacted by her first-grade teacher, Sister Grace Lucian, that she told her mother, "Someday, I am going to be a Sister of Mercy." True to her word, she entered the community at the age of 18 at Mount Loretto in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Sister Angie's first ministry was teaching and for 20 years, she taught primary, intermediate, and junior high students in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska; Kansas City, Missouri; Raton, New Mexico; and Grass Valley, California. Upon receiving a master's in fine arts in 1961, she taught art at College of Saint Mary in Omaha for 10 years.

In 1968, although Sister Angie's heart longed to be of service among the Hispanic community, her request to serve in Chile was not accepted. Still undaunted, two years later she again requested the opportunity to do social work among the Spanish-speaking people in Pueblo, Colorado and was granted permission to return to her home state of Colorado in 1971 to serve at Sacred Heart Parish in Alamosa, not far from San Luis. Her parish work included coordinating the religious education program and serving as director of the Visitors of Christ program. During her tenure, she was the first woman ever elected to the Alamosa City Council.

Sister Angie established La Puente (The Bridge) Home consisting of temporary housing for persons moving from a crisis situation to stable living, quite a unique ministry for the time. Her success soon drew attention and she was presented the prestigious Cunningham Award by Sister Theresa Kane in 1983, an award that recognizes works of mercy promoting equality.

Sister Angie left Colorado in 1987 for San Francisco, California, where she was director of Catholic Charities of San Francisco. There, she opened the Rita da Cascia House, which consisted of transitional housing for homeless families with AIDS. In 2003, Sister Angie was off to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she served 13 years as an active member of St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Parish. With boundless energy, she visited homebound parishioners weekly with the Eucharist. She was also a volunteer driver for Catholic Charities.

Sister Angie made many friends in New Mexico and this resulted in a surge of Mercy Associates, which continues to be one of the larger areas of concentrated Associates in the country. When she celebrated her 75th Jubilee in 2016, her friends said she was "87 going on 35." Sister Sharon Ford, Sister Angie's Personal Contact who accompanied her on that trip, remarked, "Everywhere we went, people of all ages expressed their gratitude for her presence in their lives." Shortly after her Jubilee celebration, Sister Angie returned to Omaha to live with her community.