



LINDA MARTINEZ

An Interview by Wanda McDonough

At Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Salt Lake City

October 4, 1992

Tape No. # 6

Archives

Diocese of Salt Lake City

ORAL/TAPED HISTORY INTERVIEW

Interviewee: Wanda Martinez  
Name

Interviewer: Wanda McDonough  
Name

Interview: 10/4/92 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church  
Date Place

RELEASE FORM

The sound recording and transcript of my interview with W. McDonough on the date of 10/4/92 may be used by the diocesan Archives for such purposes as it sees fit, including publication or deposit for public inspection in the oral history collection of the chives.

Wanda Martinez  
Signature

Oct. 4, 1992  
Date

An interview by Wanda McDonough of Linda Martinez taped  
October 4, 1992, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

WM: Linda, will you give us your full name, including your maiden name.

LM: Linda K. Herrera Martinez.

WM: And where were you born, and who were your parents?

LM: I was born on February 5, 1952 in Leadville, Colorado. And my mother's name is Soledad Rufilo, and my father's, José Epimenio Herrera.

WM: And what did they do for a living?

LM: My father was a sheepherder, growing up, and worked on the farm with his father. My mother was a housekeeper growing up. She went to school until the third or fourth grade. And they both lived in New Mexico. I can't recall this small town that either one was born in right now.

WM: Leadville doesn't sound like a place where you'd be a sheepherder, where did he herd sheep?

LM: It was when he was growing up. And then when they were married, he would just tend to the farm and work in the mine there in Leadville. He was working in the coal mine that they had there.

WM: And, your husband's name, and his occupation and background?

LM: His name is Victor Tony Martinez. We have been married now for twenty-one years come November. He is a custodian at the US Postal Service.

WM: And where did you go to school?

LM: I went to school at Jackson Elementary, and then Jackson Junior High and West High. And then I continued one year at Salt Lake Community College.

WM: How did you get to Salt Lake to go to Jackson in the very beginning? Your parents had moved here?

LM: From Leadville, we moved here, when I was three. We lived down at Fifth West and Fifth North for two years, and then we moved down here on Second North and Eighth West for the rest of the remaining years.

LM: Yes. And we lived there all the way up till I was married.

WM: And you haven't had any education past high school?

LM: I went one year to the Salt Lake Community College.

WM: And what did you study there?

LM: Clerical, secretarial, office work.

WM: Then you've lived, ever since you have had any knowledge of your church, in the Guadalupe Parish.

LM: Yes. My mother has ten children, and as we were growing up I received First Holy Communion here and the rest of the sacraments here at Guadalupe. I am the fourth one from the oldest. And many of them received Confirmation here, the older ones. And the younger ones received Baptism and the rest of the sacraments here also.

WM: And how long have you been participating in parish work, let's talk about that. Who was the priest when you started doing it? And what priests you've known?

LM: I had started here being active and involved with the Church when my two year old was to receive the sacrament of Baptism, and that was with Father Jerald Merrill and Sister Rosalie Mollica--she was with Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. And I've been here off and on attending Mass. And then when it was time for my daughter to receive First Holy Communion, there were no instructors. So Sister Rosalie took us under her wings, the parents, and taught us to teach the children classes.

WM: Well, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister set up the teaching by the lay people all over the diocese, you know that. I was in the first class they ever had.

LM: Sister Rosalie was here at the convent next door to the diocesan offices.

WM: I taught at Our Lady of Guadalupe one session, as a substitute. Somebody couldn't come. I taught out in the garage.

LM: I can remember attending CCD when they had the old church. We had to go down to the basement. It looked more like a cellar. We had one class down there. One year we were up on the choir loft, upstairs in the choir loft of the old church. One year we were in the sacristy. I remember one year we were in the garage next door that they had outside. I remember one year just having class there in the church. There was many a year we went from one section of the church to another. I remember it was after school, straight from Jackson School. We would play on the front lawn for awhile, until it was time to come in for classes.

WM: Was that when Father Merrill was here?

LM: That was when Father Kaiser was here.

WM: When Father Merrill was here, there was no religious instruction of the children?

LM: Well, there were the family instructions. But I wasn't really involved with that because my little one wasn't old enough to speak yet. And then

when it was, when she was in first or second grade it was time for her to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. And so I went to Father Merrill and Sister Rosalie and I said, "You know, I'm concerned about my child." And they said, "If you're concerned and others are concerned, we'll put it in the bulletin and have a meeting." So that's what we did.

We had our first meeting. I can remember the meeting very well because there were other parents that were interested in the classes. And she said then, "I will teach you to teach the children." And I said, "Me, I don't know anything about my faith, not really." And there were a couple of parents who said, "No, it's not for me, I can't. I'm too busy with other things." So there were a few of the parents that didn't go through with that, and I was one of the ones that stayed with it. So she taught us, to teach the children.

And we didn't have books, we didn't have crayons, we didn't have pencils. We used what we had here in the office. We used graph paper. And she would give us the curriculum, and we have this old mimeograph machine that we'd run off copies of prayers or whatever. We had a typewriter that we could come in and use. And we would use the old mimeograph machine. We still have it, but now the Xerox came out, we use that. But she taught us; then we went through basic Catechist formation class, a few of us, and we got our teaching diploma. The class was for three years; we got our three year certificate; and it went on to five years when we received that certificate. And I've taken master catechist courses twice, once with Virginia Osgood.

WM: You have a Masters?

LM: Yes I do.

WM: What classes have you taught, I mean have you stayed with young children or older children?

LM: I started with the younger ones first because I was like a little child still, trying to feel the ground I was walking on, not too sure what it involved. And I stayed with the younger group first, for a couple of years, and then I went with maybe fourth grade for one year. Then I went with sixth grade and I was trying to find where I felt comfortable.

WM: In teaching did you feel comfortable?

LM: Everywhere I felt comfortable. And I also was a team teacher at one point with Deacon Tom Otero, Cathy Bacca, Father Dohman, myself, Eppie Gonzales, Gene Barber, and I think there were a couple of others that were involved at the time. We had this Spirit seminar for Confirmation candidates. And we went through this with the Confirmation students. And I was involved with that. And that was when my oldest, twenty year old, went through Confirmation and received the Holy Spirit then at that point. I didn't feel like I was blessed until I went through it at that point.

WM: You were baptized as an infant. Was it after you came here, or was it over in Leadville?

LM: It was in Leadville.

WM: Now, you're a secretary. How did you get involved in that in the parish?

LM: I would come a lot to use the typewriter for the CCD classes. And Father Dohman would see me come in quite often. Cathy Bacca was the secretary; she would take off for three months or two months in the summer. Father Dohman asked me if I wouldn't mind coming filling in part time to take care of the phone or questions or odds and ends. And I said, "Sure I would." So I would come in and she would be here from nine to two-thirty and I would come in from three to four or five. And I did that for one summer. And I started basically that way.

Then one year Cathy Bacca decided that she was going to move from secretary position here to Our Lady of Lourdes School. So Father Diaz asked me if I would be willing to take the position. And I said I'll take it for the whole summer, but my little one still would be in Kindergarten, and I couldn't accept it because I had to be there for him. I didn't have another vehicle to go back and forth from school and find a sitter.

So I stayed for the summer, and then there was Debra Candelaria who had just finished with classes for secretarial work and I told him about her. And so she came in September, and she stayed for two years until she applied at the Business Office at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. And then she asked me if I was willing to come back and take the secretarial position again, and I said, "Yes I'm ready this time." Because my youngest was now in school for first grade, and I felt comfortable him being in school all day and staying here. So I would either ride my bike or walk to work, or find a ride and I would be here. And I've been here for two years now this past September as secretary.

WM: I remember Debra having been here once. And what else do you do in the parish?

LM: My husband and I are Eucharistic Ministers. I am still with the CCD. I teach the parents of the Reconciliation students, preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist--first three classes for the adults on that. I also sell the religious articles, and I have that once in awhile in the kitchen. I'm a resource person for the Catholic Community Services, and I attend meetings with that.

I'm a little bit involved with the Gang Task Force Unit. I touch base with them to see what is coming around. I don't attend the meetings regularly, but I speak with someone who goes regularly, she fills me in. And this is Consuelo Lutz, who works at IHRD (Instate of Human Resource Development). My husband also volunteers at the soup kitchen, St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen on Fridays. He's there from eleven-thirty to twelve-thirty, one o'clock.

- WM: Did you do anything in the community? I mean, you have Scout leaders, have you been involved with the Scouts?
- LM: My two youngest now, nine and eight year olds, just started last year with the Scouts. So I'm just barely getting the feel of the Scouts. They didn't have any interest to join until last year so, we've just been with it for one year.
- WM: You haven't been a den mother or anything?
- LM: No, no.
- WM: Tell us about the Scouts in the parish though, I know you have Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts?
- LM: We have the older Scouts that meet on Friday nights; they're the thirteen year olds, Troop 1530; and then we have the Cub Scouts that meet on Saturday morning at nine o'clock, and they are through by ten thirty. And the Brownies and Cadets and Junior Girl Scouts meet on Tuesday night at six-thirty. And they have a Mexican fund raiser dinner once a year, and that's usually in October; then they have the Spaghetti Dinner and that's about four or five months from October. And that's their big event.
- WM: Who are their leaders currently?
- LM: There is Shirley Mares [Cub Scouts], Roger Mares [Cub Scouts], Diane Morrell [Cadets], Pete Aperges [Webelos Den Leader], Kathy Bradley [Brownies]--I forget the other girls that help with Kathy Bradley.
- WM: Then another group in the parish is the Sewing Group. Tell us a little about them.
- LM: The Sewing Group started I don't even remember how many years past. Margaret Scott started the Sewing Group. At first she started with the kitchen, she wanted to do something for the church. She asked if she could have the kitchen one day and sell something. They started very small in the kitchen every Sunday and they received funds there and bought materials to make blankets and crafts. And they raised some money then and they would meet on Thursdays, they still meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:30 am.

The Ladies are maybe fifteen or twenty of them. They meet regular. They're here every Thursday and after they get their sewing items out, they come and have prayer. They receive Communion with Father, then go back and they set the table and eat lunch. They associate, so it's kind of a mixture with these ladies, they sew together, they pray together, and they're here for each other. A few of them are widows, and I think it's a support group for each other because they don't have anybody, a mate, a friend. And they come here for that.

- WM: Remember any of their names?

LM: There is Mercie Murray, and her mother just passed away last month. Maria Martinez, there is Lucy Gonzales, there is Sarah Gutierrez . . .

WM: Do you remember a Mrs. Parks?

LM: Mrs. Parks? No, I don't.

WM: She passed away some time ago. But she was a member one time.

LM: There's Evelyn Battiste, Marina Alire . . .

WM: What do they do with all the things they make?

LM: They have a Christmas bazaar. And they are offering, just offering, their crafts to the parishioners because some parishioners don't have grandmothers to buy their crafts, or they put a lot of love and work into the crafts. They make wreaths, they make turkeys out of the cones, they make blankets, very nice, warm quilts. And you don't get those anymore. Very seldom can you buy homemade quilts. They raffle them off; its just a thing for them to do with their crafts.

WM: At your outdoor carnival, not too long ago, someone was selling crafts, was that group?

LM: That's the group, yes. And they have pot holders, they have little dolls, they have all kinds of crafts.

WM: What do they do with the money they make? Do they give it to the parish or . . . ?

LM: All the money they make, they return it to the parish. And then if they need supplies, the parish turns around and gives them a check. They go out and buy padding, thread, material, whatever they feel like they want to work on. And the parish gives them any amount that they need. Every now and then its a hundred dollars. They don't ask for much, a place to meet and materials to keep them going. And the money they make, they'll make a least three or four hundred dollars during Christmas time, for the raffle. Or for the carnival, they'll make about that much and they'll turn that in.

WM: . . . for general funds, its not earmarked for any one purpose?

LM: No.

And when they started with the Ladies Sewing Group, the kitchen came around from that. We have our meal every Sunday after all the Masses, from 8:45 Mass to the last Mass at 12:15. There's a different group that goes in the kitchen every Sunday, but this kind of started, winged off the Ladies Sewing Group, because Margaret Scott started this, and she used the kitchen money to start to buy supplies, and it went back and forth from

the kitchen to the Ladies Sewing Group. And finally it winged out and spread all by itself.

So instead of Bingo on Friday nights like they used to have many years ago, they thought the kitchen would be something for the parishioners. So every Sunday people go in there and have a Mexican meal; burritos, beans, rice, tortillas, and sometimes menudo. And its basically the same food every week, but its a different group that goes in. The CCD will have one twice a year. The Scouts will have it twice a year. The Youth Group will have it twice a year. The Spanish Youth Group will have it twice a year. And then the rest is just the regular parishioners that say, "I'll do the kitchen twice a year, or I'll do the kitchen five times a year." And this crew will have people that will work with them and they'll make the chile verde in the morning. They'll make the rice in the morning. They'll have the beans all ready and they get going, and they sell coffee and that money goes back and buys supplies. And then with whatever is exceeding, they turn that in to the general fund of the Church.

WM: Now you mentioned Youth Groups and Spanish Youth Groups. Tell us about them a little bit.

LM: The English Youth Group meets on Mondays at 6:30 and Alice Silva is the director of the Youth Group. That has been going on for, I would say since Father Merrill was here, as far as I can remember. It may be further back than then.

WM: After Father Collins.

LM: I can only remember so far. So I'll start right there. I remember coming to CYO, and having dances here. But as far as I can remember, they've been meeting regular meetings. The youth that are here are teenagers. And then they become young adults and they drift away, and then she gets a new group in there of teenagers, and then they drift away and they're young adults and its been an ongoing process. They're different youth all the time that are coming in there and they'll stay for one or two years and then they're old enough that they feel like they don't need the youth group and the support for that and they'll have their fundraisers.

They'll have car washes, they'll have the kitchen, and they'll have dances once in awhile. And they meet for each other. They also do Thanksgiving baskets. We get people to donate food and they put up the Thanksgiving baskets. They go to the homes and they see the people, they deliver the food. And they get together and they do that.

WM: Now this is a youth group. And then you have a Hispanic Group, who belongs to this one?

LM: The reason we have two groups, one Hispanic Youth Group, that just started with the last seminarian that was here--he started the Spanish Youth Group with German Toro, Deacon German Toro--was that the Youth Group wasn't filling a part of the parish. They were all English-speaking people at

the Youth Group. So they decided they wanted a Spanish Youth Group. A lot of them don't speak English, and there are some that know both languages.

WM: And if they're bilingual, which are they apt to go to?

LM: They're more comfortable because they attend the 10:30 Mass [Spanish Mass at Guadalupe]. They see everybody at the 10:30 Mass. I think they are more comfortable with the teenagers that they see during Mass time. And they understand their language better. They're here for each other, they see each other every Sunday. So these teenagers that attend regularly are forming this Spanish Youth Group meeting. And they meet on Monday night and Friday night. And they just started.

They had two fundraisers already; they've been in the kitchen, and they started to get money up to make the visit to Denver for the Pope. And so is the English Youth Group, they're trying to keep their money going so they can make that trip.

WM: Now have they had any influence on the community, around here? Does this community have a bad name, you know it did, right around Jackson School any more?

LM: I don't know if they have grown because I'm not involved with the Youth Group itself. But I know that they're doing very well. And I think because once they're involved with the Youth Group and they know it's here for them, they really don't make a lot of trouble around in the community. They respect their neighborhood, so to speak. They don't terrorize or damage the face of their community that they live in. They respect it.

WM: The gangs around here then, you read about, are not necessarily Hispanic?

LM: I don't believe so. I really don't. They have the Spanish name, they may be half and half. They may be Oriental, they may be of different descent.

WM: A lot of Orientals . . . Besides the Youth Group, you have two choirs, two Masses--why did you do that?

LM: The choir for the English is for the 8:45 Mass. The Spanish Choir is at the 10:30 Mass. Again, it's their feeling comfortable with their language.

WM: That they're bilingual?

LM: I would say the majority are not. They feel comfortable with their own language. They're being fed spiritually more through their own language. And the reason for the Spanish Choir is because they sing during Mass and they get more out of the liturgy.

WM: Hymns in Spanish that this choir sings you would know; I would not know because I don't speak Spanish.

- LM: Yes, they would be ones that you wouldn't know if you attended the Mass. I would know because I'm of Spanish descent.
- WM: I mean they're not just English hymns translated into Spanish?
- LM: No. There are a lot that are similar and there are a lot that are not. Basically the same. I guess maybe half and half.
- WM: Does the parish participate in the December Mass the Bishop has for Our Lady of Guadalupe?
- LM: I think the Spanish Choir does. A lot of them are involved in that. I see their pictures in the Intermountain Catholic newspaper. And I think they were with the St. Olaf's group when they had the classes there for the Congress. They were involved with that. They were in there. They're also involved when they have the Masses of Ordination, like that of Fr. Ken Vialpando. They were involved with that. So they are called upon, and they are involved with the diocese.
- WM: Now there is practicing for Mass I presume today. Can any children join the Spanish Choir?
- LM: Any children. And they start now because the school year starts and they get the children back. They start singing with them, and they start teaching them Christmas songs. On December 24, they have a family Mass that is at six p.m. or eight p.m.; and the children sing then at that Mass. It's a family Mass, so they feel a part of that celebration.
- WM: You know Sacred Heart has Spanish Masses and Spanish groups now. Has that drawn anything away from your parish?
- LM: I think maybe at times they are drawn away for one reason or another and they feel a little bit more comfortable at Sacred Heart or St. Patrick's. If they had a bad experience here, they'll not want to confront the situation, and they'll just leave and go quietly. And you'll ask them why you haven't seen them for awhile. "Well we went to St. Patrick's or we've gone to Sacred Heart. We feel a lot more comfortable over there."
- WM: Does St. Patrick's have a Spanish Mass?
- LM: St. Patrick's does.
- WM: Oh. Well Sacred Heart just recently started it I know. They realized that their parish has a large proportion of Hispanics.
- Now I know that Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters have been out here, I've been out here with them. But can you remember some of the names of some of the sisters that have been out here that you have worked with?
- LM: I remember Sister Sharon Rose [Sister Sharon Rose Eshleman] very well. I think because she taught my sister—one of my sisters is named Sharon. And I remember Sister Sharon Rose teaching me prayers, taking the time to

give me a hug. And I also remember Sister Rosalie Mollica started with me with religion. She was my spiritual advisor, and then again there is Sister Mary Rosella, that just left. She went back to the motherhouse.

WM: Has Sister Lorraine Masters ever been out here?

LM: I think she has, but that may have been right after I was married here. And I left the church for a couple of years, not completely, but I wouldn't attend Mass regularly. So I was drawn away for a little while. She may have been at that time.

WM: Have there been any sisters out here besides the Missionary Sisters? Do you know?

LM: Not that I remember.

WM: You wouldn't remember far back enough to those little Mexican Sisters. I'd like to find anybody that does remember them, but I know they were here.

LM: Sister Rosario Lara, the one that is here now, said she was one, the second group that came to work with Father, the one that had the mission.

WM: Father Collins?

LM: Father Collins. She said she was one of the second group of Sisters that worked for Father Collins. And she said that was many years ago. She's been here before; she was away for quite awhile and she came back now to the parish.

WM: I understand she was one of the first Victory Missionary Sisters that came to Utah. They worked up in Brigham City for a long time. And what priests do you remember? I know you've mentioned some of them. Just say which you remember.

LM: I remember Father Kaiser, because that's when I received First Holy Communion. He was here, it seemed like forever. And he had pictures of the family, like a photo album with all the parishioners, whoever wanted to come. Well, my mother had ten of us, and all the boys dressed in red plaid shirts and all the girls dressed basically the same, in a colored blouse. We were all here and I remember taking the picture. We were all nervous about it, because this is something we never did growing up, we never took pictures. So we remember this quite well. It was something that we never did, but we did it on this occasion.

WM: Did he give you copies of the picture?

LM: Yes, he did. There was even a book, there was a book that was made up like a photo album. We have pictures of the other parishioners that took pictures that day. And so we look at it every now and then and we kind of chuckle about it. Like Mr. and Mrs. Barber look at what they looked like

and look at their kids. And so we kind of reminisce a little bit. And we're surprised they're still here and we're still here.

WM: That's just one book?

LM: I think my mother has it at home.

WM: They'd love it up in the Archives if you ever want to give it to someone.

LM: Okay. Maybe they can take a copy of it.

WM: I wish you would. I'll tell Bernice Mooney to call you. She's the head of the Archives.

LM: I'm going to go to mom's house down the street--she still lives there--after I leave here today, and I'll try to get the book.

After Father Kaiser there was Father Merrill. He was here for quite awhile again, it seemed like for four to six years. And that's when I met Sister Rosalie Mollica. After Father Merrill, there was Father Reyes. After Father Reyes there was Father Dohman. Father Dohman had two cute little dachshunds. I don't know that now priests have had any pets, except Father Dohman. I don't know how the parishioners took to that, but I thought that it was nice, being on his part to have a couple dogs. And then after Father Dohman, was . . .

WM: There was somebody else in between there.

LM: Then Father Diaz. I was married in the old church, before they built this new addition here. I was one of the last ones to be married in the old church. And that was twenty-one years ago. And then my sister under me, three years younger than me, was one of the first ones to be married in the new church. So that was kind of nice to have that.

WM: Did you feel comfortable moving from the old one to the new one? They're so different.

LM: They are very much different. It was a little hard to get used to because the old church was more old tradition, homey environment.

WM: I remember.

LM: Then when we came to the new one, it was carpeted, it was modernized, it was glorified in more ways than one. It was a little hard to get used to, and I'm sure the older parishioners felt it very hard to adjust to.

WM: The older persons had a bad time because they had to adjust to all the changes in the Church.

LM: Vatican II right around then also. I remember it making the transition from never wearing slacks to Church, and veils. And then it seemed like it was right around the same time when the new church came around. No

longer were we wearing veils, no longer were we wearing skirts or dresses to Church. And it seemed like no longer were we using the kneelers to receive the Eucharist. We were standing. After awhile we were no longer using our tongue, we were using our hands to receive the Eucharist. So there were a lot of changes then.

WM: I think the children, growing up now, never know those things went on. Do you remember when we had to fast?

LM: I remember my mother bringing us all the day before Easter for Confession. I remember coming to the Forty Hours of Devotion, praying there. I remember being there with the Eucharist being exposed and praying for those hours on end. And coming to the Stations of Cross every Friday. I remember a lot of spiritual things that my mother taught me.

WM: That was all in the old Church. Never gone to any other Church in this Diocese?

LM: Never.

WM: Grown up with Guadalupe. I see there is a plaque out there with Father Collins' name on it. Do you remember who put that up?

LM: I don't. I believe its been there when the old church was up. I don't know who it was who had that plaque there.

WM: I just noticed it the other day. And Mrs. Kolb didn't know who.

LM: Eppie Gonzales might know.

(END OF INTERVIEW)

