



## Bertha Martinez Chavez

March 29, 1926 - March 30, 2021

Bertha's children - Ada Bertha, Anna Alicia, and Arturo Chavez – announce the peaceful passing of their beloved mother to eternal life on March 30, 2021 in San Antonio, TX. Bertha was 95 years old and forever young in her persistent love of life, sense of humor, and deep faith. She was born on March 29, 1926 in Namiquipa, Chihuahua – Mexico. Her parents, Alberto and Maria Martinez instilled in their children their living faith and dedication to family and community. Bertha was a shining example of these virtues. Having earned a teaching degree with the Josefina Sisters in Chihuahua, Bertha taught many children in isolated ranchos. She was dearly loved by her students who referred to her as Señorita Martinez long after she was married. She immigrated to the United States and married Arturo Chavez in 1954. Together they had six children, including Maria Elena, Graciela, and Angelica Maria who preceded their parents in death and are now joyfully reunited in heaven with their mother. Even with the tragic deaths of her daughters and her divorce in 1969, Bertha never lost her resilient hope and her determination to continue believing, laughing, and loving. She was a hard worker – sometimes juggling several part-time jobs – to provide for her children. Above all, Bertha loved her children and passed on to them her love of God, dedication to family, and a life-long pursuit of learning and service. Creating beauty was her passion and she loved to give away her beautiful paintings and embroidery. Bertha was also an avid follower of politics in Mexico and the US, always advocating in her own way for the poor and oppressed.

Bertha struggled with Alzheimers dementia for more than 15 years. As the illness progressed, she ardently prayed to never forget her children's faces and names. Her prayer was answered as she recognized her children and grandchildren gathered around her bedside for their final blessing. She suffered painful blood clots in her legs but bore it bravely and patiently, giving thanks for everything her children and the nurses did to make her comfortable in her last days. She died peacefully at home surrounded by her children, her beloved sister Benigna "Nina" Rodriguez, grandchildren and nieces, and her faithful cockatiel, Dr. Monchi. She is survived by her above-named children and the following grandchildren: Alberto Willi and Joseph Raymond Chavez, Levi and Stephen Singleton, Graciela Ray and Angelica Baez-Chavez; and great grandchildren: Fabian Alberto and Amarise Tatiana Chavez and Luca Leon Singleton.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Alamo Funeral Chapels with a rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m. Funeral mass will be held on Friday, April 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church with the interment to follow at San Fernando Cemetery

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Alamo Funeral Chapels  
624 N Alamo St  
San Antonio, TX 78215  
(210) 554-5000  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Rosary

APR 8. 6:00 PM (CT)

Alamo Funeral Chapels  
624 N Alamo St  
San Antonio, TX 78215  
(210) 554-5000  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Visitation and Eulogy

APR 9. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church  
210 Saint Ann Street  
San Antonio, TX 78201

## Funeral Mass

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APR 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church  
210 Saint Ann Street  
San Antonio, TX 78201

# Tribute Wall

AC

“*¿Mami, que vamos a hacer sin usted? Sabemos que nuestra madre, linda esta con Dios, disfrutando de la vida eterna. Mami todo el tiempo decía “Yo quiero mucho la vida.” Usted supo como vivir la vida plenamente en tiempos buenos, así como también en los tiempos malos. Yo nunca he conocido otra persona con la misma fuerza, fortaleza, coraje, y compasión como usted, mami. Usted nos enseñó como vivir la vida cotidiana con Dios a nuestro lado, disfrutando cada día en fe, alegría, pasión, y compasión. Con tanta razón de deprimirse por toda su vida mami, usted con sus ojos fijos en Jesucristo venzo la depresión, siempre diciendo, de la depresión, ¡“Yo no me dejo!” En sus últimos días Mami, usted nos enseñó como morir bien, con dignidad y humildad. Hasta el ultimo respiro, usted con sus ojos fijos en Jesucristo.*

*Yo se que ahora usted sigue trabajando desde el cielo para cuidar de sus pollitos aquí en la tierra. Gracias por sus cuidados que Dios nos de la gracia para sanar nuestros corazones y el vacío que nos delo sus ausenta. Ayúdenos mami a vencer la tristeza que sentimos horita. ¡Gracias por hacer mi mami!*

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**ANNA ALICIA CHAVEZ** - April 21, 2021 at 10:12 AM

BI

*I just accidentally got here I'm sorry for the lost of your mother ahw certainly sounds like a  
PROVERBS 31 WOMAN  
I HOPW WHEN I PASS NY CHILDEN WILL SPEAK WORDS.LIKE  
THESE.  
GOD BLESS YOU.ANS YOUR FAMILY  
BERTHA C. M.*

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**birdie** - February 10, 2023 at 03:51 PM

AG

“ I remember Tia Bertha coming over when i was younger, she always had a bright smile and a way of telling stories that drew everyone in. Even when I was a handful, she was loving. I am grateful that she was a part of my life. She was loved and will be dearly missed.

Alberto Garcia - April 09, 2021 at 04:24 PM

AR

*Beautiful babe*

Arcelia Rodriguez - April 09, 2021 at 06:22 PM

AC

“ Wherever mom went, there was a party! There is certainly a fiesta in heaven as our sisters and grandparents welcome her home! Tears of joy and sorrow as we say goodbye today. Thank you to all who have accompanied us these days!



arturo chavez - April 09, 2021 at 07:45 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.



April 08, 2021 at 05:01 PM

TT

“ I first met Mama Bertha in the very end of the 1970's when Arturo and I were in the seminary together in Beaumont, TX. I could not speak spanish so I tried my best to understand what she would say to me from her facial expressions and gestures. She so loved to tell stories. One moment she would be saying something very quickly with a stern look on her face and then look at you intently to see your response, then she would say something and her smile would beam forth and those eyes would sparkle with delightful mischief! But that laugh...! I still hear it.

One time on a visit to San Antonio, during one of the hottest summers I can remember, everyone in the Stonewall house would gather in the rooms that were well air-conditioned so we could sleep comfortably through the sweltering night. One night I remember waking up and finding the room that we were sleeping in quite warm. I was sleeping right next to the window air conditioning unit and so I decided to turn it up a little bit. Just as I was falling back to sleep, I was abruptly awakened by a foot stomping me, and someone leaning over me to turn the air conditioner off. Mama Bertha had decided that the room was cool enough and so, the AC unit could be turned off. She did not see me, or that is what I shall tell myself, and accidentally stomped me as she shut the AC off. That story has been told and remembered over the years, and by her as well, with that same mischievous laugh and delightful smile.

During that same trip I believe, she was watching my attempts at dancing and remarked that I somewhat resembled a worm! So, since then I have been her dear Guzanito! Love and Laughter you will always be. Love and miss you Mama!

GUZI (Thomas)

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Thomas Telhiard - April 08, 2021 at 03:29 PM

AC



arturo chavez - April 08, 2021 at 06:44 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



April 08, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



April 08, 2021 at 02:21 PM

GR

“ *I will always treasure the time I had with you Grandma- you were always smiling and telling jokes! I love you so much- Rest In Peace*



Graciela Ray - April 08, 2021 at 09:54 AM

SC

“ *Shonda, Tristen, Darlene and John Cinelli purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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**Shonda, Tristen, Darlene and John Cinelli** - April 08, 2021 at 09:48 AM

RL

“ *To the Chavez family , our deepest condolences. May the Lord strengthen you all during this time. May the Love and peace of God always keep you and comfort you. She will be Greatly missed but one day we will rejoice to see her again.*

*Rose and Alvin Logan*

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**Rosa Logan** - April 08, 2021 at 08:14 AM

“ *Mi Madre, Bertha*

*Sangre de mi sangre  
Eterna parte de mi corazon*

*Mi madre  
cargo seis seres  
dentro de su ser  
dio luz  
alimentandolos  
con su gran amor*

*Nos crio,  
solita  
Con caricias tiernas  
con alegres chistes  
con lindas sonrisas  
con sopitas y tacos  
con arroz y avenitas  
con enchiladas y frijoles  
con besitos y mil cuidados  
con rosarios y oraciones  
con la gran fe  
de sus antepasados  
nos crio*

*Con el trabajo honrado  
de sus lindas manos  
nos dio hogar y nos vistio  
con buenos principios*

*Fue nuestra primera maestra  
ensenandonos a leer y escribir  
a hablar con respeto  
a cantar y a reir  
a vivir siempre con alegria y carino*

*Con su luz  
nos enseno a amar  
a seguir siempre adelante  
con esperanza  
con fe*

*Mi made, Bertha  
Es por ella que conozco al cielo  
Sangre de mi sangre  
Eterna parte de mi corazon*

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**Ada Bertha Chavez** - April 08, 2021 at 01:09 AM

AC

*So beautiful*

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**Anna Alicia Chavez** - April 08, 2021 at 08:40 AM

AC

*I can taste the sopitas y enchiladas!*

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**arturo chavez** - April 08, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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April 08, 2021 at 12:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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April 08, 2021 at 12:10 AM



“ *It was one early (Saturday) spring morning, as I was driving down my street on Rosewood Ave in San Antonio, Tx, I saw an elderly lady walking down the sidewalk and I stopped and offered her a ride and she declined with her beautiful smile. So, I went on my way to grab a taco and donut. Weeks went by and I saw the same lady again, and I offered a ride, but, she declined again. On our third encounter, I saw her outside of her house, in the front yard and she told she looks bed there with her daughter Anna. It was then, that we became friends, I told her I lived just a few house down the block. So, everytime I would go get breakfast I would stop and bring her a taco and donuts, we would have coffee together. She would tell me about her daughter Anna, that she would be in town soon and wanted me to meet her. Meanwhile, I learned that she was an artist that loved to paint her birdhouses, do, I would purchase some from her, she really enjoyed her painting and was really good at it. Finally one day I stopped by to leave her donuts and she said my daughter is here, meet my daughter Anna. So, we met, and been friends ever since. When Anna moved back from Chicago all three of us would get together for lunch or dinner and have a good laugh, because Bertha was all laughter. She loved to laugh and was full of life and enjoyed life. Her beautifulness, her smile, her jokes, will forever be alive in my memory of her. Bertha paint for the Angels.  
Your friend Nancy Garzes*

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**Nancy Garzes** - April 07, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ *B Alicia Rodriguez purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



**B Alicia Rodriguez** - April 07, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ *Tia Bertha: mi tocaya, mi compañera de casino, mi segunda mamá! La tendré siempre en mi corazón. Fue un gran ejemplo de como vencer la tristeza y disfrutar de la vida. Le vamos a poner muchas ganas a la vida, como usted nos ha enseñado. Queremos que nos mire con mucho orgullo, desde el cielo. Junto a sus hijos queridos (en Tejas!), estaremos sus “otros hijos” (pero en California).*



**B Alicia Rodriguez** - April 07, 2021 at 05:31 PM



“ *From John, Blessing, Nyasha, and Mufaro Chitakure. purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



**From John, Blessing, Nyasha, and Mufaro Chitakure.** - April 07, 2021 at 01:41 PM

TF

“ *The Sagely Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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**The Sagely Family** - April 07, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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April 07, 2021 at 11:01 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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April 07, 2021 at 10:58 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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April 06, 2021 at 11:39 PM

AC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anna Alicia Chavez - April 06, 2021 at 09:49 PM

AC

*I love you mami!*

Anna Alicia Chavez - April 06, 2021 at 09:50 PM

DG

*Beautiful Tia Berta ❤️ like her rose 🌹💧🌹 May you RIP tia, you will be dearly missed 😭*

Diana Guerra - April 07, 2021 at 12:45 PM

AR

“ Mi querida tía Bertha tengo tantas cosas de estar agradecida que Dios nos dio la oportunidad de tenerla como nuestra tía... Era una persona fuerte, amorosa y platicadora... la relación que teníamos de tía y sobrina siempre vivirá en mi memoria y corazón... Desde el cielo me cuida me guía y me guarda un roncito en el cielo... La quiero mucho tía la voy extrañar mucho pero tengo el consuelo de saber que alguien día nos reunimos devuelta en el cielo... cuando sea mi tiempo espero y me recibas con los brazos abiertos y los mariachis...



Arcelia Rodriguez - April 06, 2021 at 09:19 PM

CÁ

Dios la tenga en su Santa Gloria. Me uno a sus oraciones por su eterno descanso, sabiendo que la Santísima Virgen la tiene en sus brazos. Felicito a la familia por haber tenido un tesoro como: madre, abuela, tía. Yo tuve la bendición de conocerla y quererla. ¡Doy gracias a Dios! Dr. Chávez y familia mi sincero pésame 🌸🙏🙏🙏

Carolina Ávila - April 07, 2021 at 10:11 AM

AR

Gracias por sus lindas palabras

Arcelia Rodriguez - April 07, 2021 at 12:03 PM

AC

“ Grandma Bertha will be missed dearly, every time we see pictures of wonderful moments we got to share with her, it feels like just yesterday she was making us laugh and smile anytime we were feeling down. Abuelitas love of Life will live on with her family and friends love, she taught us to always share and pray for others. Her great grandchildren loved to pray with her, and protect her when walking around when visiting glad we have so many wonderful memories to share. Muchos Gracias por tanto amor ye tanto tempo para senti tu amor. I love you grandma I feel your love and sparkle close I'm happy you made it high above 🙏❤️!



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**alberto chavez** - April 06, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ My favorite times with grandma were spent at her condo with the pool. As a kid, I looked forward to swimming, playing with her pets and eating the foods I wasn't allowed to eat at home like pastries and white bread. Something I will always cherish about these days with grandma is how funny and cheerful she was. I remember I would sit on her lap as she taught me Spanish nursery rhymes. We would laugh and laugh while we recited them in silly voices and made funny hand gestures.

A more recent memory I have of grandma, is from a few years ago at our Donore house. I was sitting next to her and we were watching Desi (our tiny white chihuahua) prance around and wag his tail. “Mira que chulo!” grandma said as she cooed over him. Then Gendry (Graciela's huge Mutt) walked in, tongue out and drooling. I pointed to him and said “and him?”, and grandma shook her head and said “!Ay que malo!” She didn't like the big dogs, only the small ones.

Sincerely ,  
Angelica (Bertha's granddaughter)



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**Angelica Baez-Chavez** - April 06, 2021 at 04:45 PM

AC

*Sweet memories!*

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**Ada Bertha Chavez** - April 10, 2021 at 06:48 PM

RC

“ My deepest condolences to the Chavez family. I never had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Chavez, but I did have the great privilege to work at MACC under Arturo's guidance. Knowing him, seeing him in action-not only for MACC but for all whom he encountered-, and witnessing his spirit through his caring and his work, I know where that was born and nurtured. May your memories of times shared bring all of you serenity and strength at this time. May her loss at this holy season be a light that shines in comfort and love. Blessings and graces.



*Rita Charles*

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**Rita Charles** - April 06, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Martinez Chavez.*



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April 06, 2021 at 03:43 PM

SK

“ Reading a little of the story and looking into the face of Bertha Martinez Chavez, I feel her spirit reflected in Anna, in Arturo and Mary with Graciela and Angelica whom I know. What care, creativity, generosity, eagerness for education, and for justice they share. It sounds like good things were coming from good roots. It was my joy long ago to experience Arturo and then Anna as avid learners in Incarnate Word classes. So Ms. Chavez was a teacher in Chihuahua! She must have known how to encourage learners. I also had the joy of knowing Mary as a learner and to see a match growing.

You have grieved during Holy, may you enter ever deeply into the stories of hew life, of resurrection. Hold on the stories of her, share her wisdom, let hope and creativity bubble up within you.

Also remember wounded hearts take time to heal. Be gentle with yourselves and each other right now.

With sympathy and prayers,

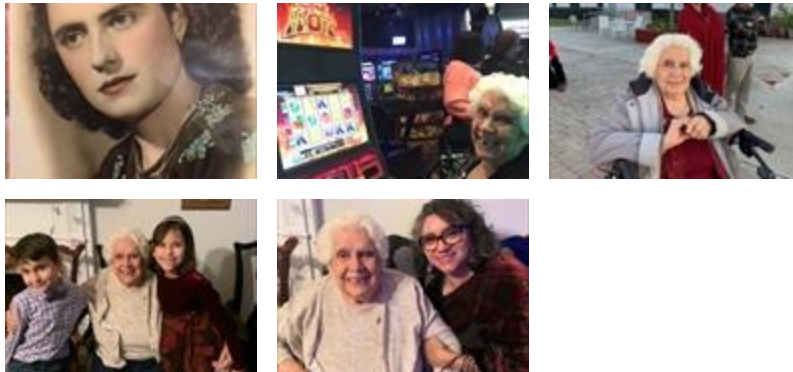
Sr. Martha Ann

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Sister Martha Ann Kirk - April 06, 2021 at 02:22 PM

AC

“ 14 files added to the album Bertha M. Chavez



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arturo chavez - April 06, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Bertha Martinez Chavez*.



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April 06, 2021 at 01:55 PM