



## DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Office of Religious

Date: January 10, 2020  
To: All Clergy, Consecrated Men and Women, Principals, and Parish Staff  
From: Sr. Karla Felix-Rivera  
Subject: Death Notices and Prayers

*“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and  
let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in praying for the eternal repose of Sr. Maria Bierer, IBVM.

To find a short obituary, please visit the news section in the diocesan website:

<https://www.scd.org/news/sister-maria-bierer-ibvm-dies-served-diocese-sacramento-education-and-worship-roles> or open the attached PDF.

Sr. Maria was truly an extraordinary woman who edified our diocese and her community with her faith, love and dedication.

Thank you for your prayers and continue to thank God for her life.

Blessings,  
Your sister,  
Sr. Karla Felix-Rivera, VDMF, JCL



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let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace."**

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### **SISTER MARIA BIERER IBVM**

Sister Maria Bierer IBVM, died on December 29, 2019, at age 86, after several years of living with challenging health issues. Sr. Maria was a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary since 1952 and her passion was music and education in all its forms.

Sr. Maria started her ministry in education at St. Francis HS in Wheaton IL in 1957. She also earned her Master's Degree in Music and another Master's Degree in Theology.

In 1965, Sr. Maria then taught at Loretto High School in Sacramento, CA, where she eventually became Principal until 1982. During that time she produced several musicals noted for their excellence. Then she became Director of Worship for the Diocese of Sacramento from 1983-1993.

She returned to the Chicago area to become Director of Development for the IBVMs in the United States. She was elected to the General Council of the IBVMs for the North American Generalate in Toronto and then was elected General Superior in 1999. During her time as General Superior, the North American Branch of the IBVM reunited with the Irish Branch to form the Loretto Branch in 2003. Sr. Maria then went to Rome to serve as a Councilor for the Loretto Branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary until 2006.

Sister Maria's wake and funeral was held at St. John of the Cross Church in Western Springs, Illinois on Tuesday, Jan. 7. The wake began at 10 a.m. and the funeral Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. A reception followed the funeral Mass.

Remembrances can be sent to [www.ibvm.us](http://www.ibvm.us).