



**Severina Gallegos SL**  
**November 17, 1906 — April 3, 2008**

Amalia Gallegos, daughter of David Gallegos and Ramona Sanchez y Garcia, was born November 17, 1906 at Piños Wells near Willard, New Mexico. She had six older and two younger siblings.

After the death of her mother, an aunt who lived in Willard raised Amalia. She attended Loretto Academy in Santa Fe and Willard Grade and High School, receiving her diploma in 1927.

She began her journey as a Sister of Loretto on December 8, 1930 when she received the religious habit and the name, Severina. Like many other Sisters, Severina earned her Bachelor Degree during summer study. She graduated from Loretto Heights College in 1954 with a Major in Education and a double Minor in History and Philosophy.

In her autobiography of 1976, Sevie wrote: "My life as a girl was a rather lonely one. I had a good home and plenty of this world's goods, but I always felt there was something missing to give me complete happiness... The good Lord had been calling me to follow Him for sometime. I just didn't know how to say "yes"...God spoke to me, 'You must follow me in the religious life'...Throughout my life I have found complete joy and strength in the blessed Eucharist."

From 1932 through 1973 Sevie taught in Elementary Schools in New Mexico, Texas, and Illinois. She served as a Catechist and Coordinator of Religious Education for several years.

One of the works she enjoyed most was teaching English to young seminarians from Mexico. St. Anthony Seminary was just a few blocks from the Loretto Convent where Sevie was living. It was a delightful sight as the young men, habits blowing in the breeze, arrived to escort Sevie to the Seminary. They treated her with much kindness and respect. She performed this ministry from 1991-1996.

Sevie loved teaching religion. She also loved to play the organ and piano. She was quite proficient and just 15 years ago could play in a happy fashion.

A lovely story is of Severina attending a Summer School Physical Education class. When the lesson involved dance, Sevie arose to the occasion. She came to the front of the class, and creating her own music with dah-dah, dah-dah, did the Mexican Hat Dance! An observer said: "I was impressed! Such humility! Such talent!"

Severina loved to sing. On December 8, 2005 when Sevie celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee as a Sister of Loretto at age 99, she sang heartily during the entire celebration sometimes with the those gathered, but more often her own favorite, Al Cielo. Sevie was still singing at the age of 101 shortly before her death on April 3, 2008. Sevie, we will miss your joyous melodies, but we know you are in your longed for destination, Al Cielo.