



Melva E. Stevenson

March 5, 2025

Melva E. Stevenson, born in Cochabamba, Bolivia, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, in Houston, TX. A devoted mother, wife, daughter, and lifelong educator, Melva was cherished by her family and beloved by generations of students who affectionately called her “Señora Stevenson.”

Melva dedicated 32 years of her life to teaching Spanish at St. Theresa Catholic School, where she revolutionized the Spanish curriculum and served as a devout Eucharistic Minister. Her passion for education extended beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting impact on her students and colleagues.

Raised in Cochabamba, Melva began her teaching career at the Maryknoll Language Institute. There, she played a pivotal role in developing the first curriculum for the indigenous Quechua language. It was also at Maryknoll where she met a young lay missionary from the USA, Bill Stevenson. Their love story spanned 48 years, with 44 years of a happy marriage, building a beautiful life together in Houston, TX.

Melva adored her family, especially her son and grandsons. She was

preceded in death by her parents, Freddy and Evita, and her brother, Jose. She is survived by her loving husband, Bill; her son, Ed, and his wife, Marina; her grandsons, Andrew and Joshua; and many nieces and nephews in Bolivia.

In honor of Melva's memory, donations may be made to your favorite charity.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 4, 2025 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 6622 Haskell St, Houston, Texas.

Tribute Wall

OC

“ I was one of Señora Stevenson’s students at St. Theresa’s from around 1997-2005. She was my Spanish teacher and my 7th grade homeroom teacher. She was always so warm, welcoming and full of life and light! Every time she saw me, either in the hall or in her classroom she would say “Olivia from Bolivia!” Lol - she knew I wasn’t from Bolivia, she was and my name is Olivia lol and it just became this sweet little greeting she said and we just laughed. She always made class fun and exciting! You could tell she was very passionate about her job because with the joy and laughter in her class there were definitely moments of discipline and intentional lessons and structure. It was a fun environment but she also made sure you acted right in her class! She has no problem corrected you haha especially a few boys in our class that wouldn’t focus or acted up from time to time. She found the balance of being respected and adored! She deserved it. One of my favorite educators I’ve ever had. She will be missed. I’m happy to know she was at peace and lived a very fulfilling life and left a great legacy! God bless you Señora and many prayers towards her husband and family who are grieving.

Olivia Cuevas (Rojas) aka Olivia from Bolivia

Olivia Cuevas - March 13, 2025 at 12:53 PM

MD

“ It was my distinct privilege and honor to have taught school along side Melva for years at St. Theresa. She was an inspiration to me and to all her students. Her loving nature and deepest desire to make the children the best they could be in life were constant and remarkable qualities she portrayed every day. She was well received and loved by all, especially by her fellow teachers. I thank God every day for allowing me to learn from her, share the joy she felt for her family, and be her friend. My prayers are with all whose lives she has touched. God bless her and the family.

Mary Lou Dale - March 10, 2025 at 04:40 PM