



## The Unification Church

North American Headquarters

481 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10001

Tel: 212-997-0050 | Fax: 212-997-0051 | E-mail [admin@unification.org](mailto:admin@unification.org)

### The Passing of our Dear Sister, Maria Kartel

Joshua Cotter  
September 16, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our dear Sister, Maria Kartel, passed away on Sunday, September 11, 2011 in Iowa City, Iowa. She faithfully served True Parents and God's Providence for many years and lived a life of great devotion and honor.

Let us support Maria's family during this important time and pray for her victorious transition to a glorious new life in the spiritual world.

Following is information about her wonderful life from her State Leader, Mr. Alan Jessen.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joshua Cotter  
Executive Vice President  
HSA-UWC USA



#### **Victorious Life of Maria (Fracchiolla) Kartel: February 24, 1946 – September 11, 2011**

Maria Fracchiolla was born in Gravina, Italy on February 24, 1946 to the Parents of Nicola and Anna (Tota) Fracchiolla. She was the only daughter with four brothers.

The family moved to Milan when Maria was nine or ten years old, where she eventually came to work at an early age for her older brother who was in the high fashion industry. She became the head seamstress and worked long arduous hours when helping her brother prepare for one of his fashion shows!

Maria met our movement in July of 1977 in Milan and shortly thereafter went to England where she participated in the witnessing programs, and worked in the Home Church Providence in the place of Shakespeare's birth. Through Maria's service in Home Church, lifelong friendships were established that have remained current and cherished to this day. In 1980, she came to the United States and joined MFT

in Dallas, Texas.

Maria was made for MFT. She was a pure natural at fund raising. She loved it not for the activity, but for the interaction with people. She thrived and experienced the depth of the human spirit in all the many encounters with the myriad human personalities. Maria truly loves God's children and MFT was an extension of her love. God touched her heart through these interactions. Her heart was profoundly moved and she grew to live a life of faith and love with God and True Parents that stayed with her throughout her life.



Speaking little English, Maria was matched to her husband, Kevin, by True Parents in December, 1980; the day before True God's Day 1981, and received the Holy Blessing in Madison Square Garden on July 1, 1982, with 2075 other couples.

Maria joined Kevin, a CARP member, to work on Penn State University campus. A short time later, they relocated to New York and resided in the historic New Yorker Hotel in Manhattan. They took a short trip to Italy during which time on October 24, 1983 their precious daughter Christina Marie was born. After returning to New York, Maria worked with the witnessing teams out of 4 West 43rd St. She also enjoyed opportunities like helping bake cakes for church celebrations.

One of the proud moments in Maria's life was serving True Parents directly during this time. True Father had invited professors from Korea to East Garden and sisters volunteered to prepare food. She worked with the kitchen staff to serve true parents.

In 1992, Kevin and Maria moved to Kevin's hometown Dyersville, Iowa. They made their life in Dyersville, raising their daughter, sharing life with Kevin's family and the community of church members spread across the vast area of Iowa, over the course of the next nearly 20 years.



One of Maria's many passions was to honor the establishment of National Parent's Day every year in

Dyersville. She worked to get sponsors to support the holiday. Inspired by the vision of paying tribute to role models of good citizenship and family, she brought together people in the park to recognize Parents of the Year with gifts and a plaque. She made sure everyone was well fed, no one walked away without a prize, and the kids always got ice cream. She continued the tradition faithfully every year from 1996 - 2010.

Maria spent her time on this earth as a model of what True Parents teach, living for the sake of others. If you were ever in the same room with Maria, she was always thinking of others and caring for their needs. It was never about her. It was always about making others feel God's love and her heart of care for you. She loved and worked hard for her family, she gave everything of her heart and mind and soul in service of her husband's family, and always was warm and welcoming to the church community of brothers and sisters. She exemplified all that a true mother, true wife, true sister, and filial daughter should be. Survivors of her family include her husband, Kevin, and daughter, Christina, both of Dyersville, Iowa.



The Seung Hwa Ceremony for Maria will be held on Saturday, September 17 at 1:00 PM at the Kramer Funeral Home, 103 5th St. SE, Dyersville, Iowa. Viewing and greeting of the family will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Immediately after the ceremony, burial will be at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Dyersville. Light refreshments will then be served at the Kartel home.

If you feel called, please come and share this moment with Kevin, Maria and Christina. Kevin has a large family in Dyersville and they have been terrific, but it is very hard for him. They have had very little income since June so they are struggling financially. Any offerings to them would be deeply appreciated.

Please send cards, offering and memorials to **Kevin Kartel, P.O. Box 102 Dyersville, IA 52040.**

Flowers can ordered online from a local florist at [www.konrardyfloristofdyersville.com/](http://www.konrardyfloristofdyersville.com/) for delivery to the funeral home.

You may see Maria's initial obituary and photo at [www.kramerfuneral.com/obit-display.jhtml?DB=update/obits/dbase&DO=display&ID=1315859709\\_22756](http://www.kramerfuneral.com/obit-display.jhtml?DB=update/obits/dbase&DO=display&ID=1315859709_22756).

Thank you.