

Order of Service

GATHERING SONG

On Eagle's Wings

OPENING PRAYER

Fr. Carlos Morales

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9 – “The Banquet of Victory”

Read by Maria's daughter, Adriana Garzon

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 22 – “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Read by Mrs. Bobbi Lambert

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-9 – “Walking in Newness of Life”

Read by Maria's daughter, Rommy Wheeler

GOSPEL

Luke 12:35-40 – “Be Ready”

Fr. Carlos Morales

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Ave Maria · Mrs. Bobbi Lambert

COMMUNION SONG

One Bread, One Body

REMEMBRANCES

Adriana Garzon · Rommy Wheeler · Natalia Garzon

FINAL PRAYER & BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Amazing Grace

FUNERAL MASS

August 29, 2026 · 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Catholic Church

Hermosa Beach, California

INTERMENT

August 31, 2026 · 10:00 AM

Pacific Crest Cemetery

Redondo Beach, California



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Maria Antonia Vindez

FEBRUARY 24, 1937 – AUGUST 8, 2026

Her Life

Maria Antonia Vindez was born on February 24, 1937, in San Eduardo, a small town in Boyacá, Colombia. She was one of nine children in a family that would eventually stretch across countries and continents. Her family later moved to Bogotá, where Maria married Fausto Garzon and had three children, Rommy, Adriana, and Gerardo.

When her children were teenagers, she left for the United States, steadfast in the belief that life could hold more for them, carrying little besides a sewing needle and the skill to use it.

Her journey took her first to New York and eventually west to Los Angeles, where she made a new life for herself and worked as a seamstress. In time she brought her children over, one by one. Nearly everything that came after can be traced back to that conviction—that something better had to lie ahead—and the audacious decision to find out for herself.

Her skill with a needle and fabric remained with her throughout her life, along with an unmistakable sense of style. Maria loved clothes and fashion and carried herself with a chic elegance that was entirely her own.

In Los Angeles, a chance encounter one evening at Steven's Steakhouse brought Pierre Vindez into her life. They fell deeply in love and married, beginning a partnership marked by extraordinary devotion to one another. Together they built a beautiful life surrounded by family. They traveled the world, from South America and Europe to China and the South Pacific, on cruises and adventures that took them far beyond the worlds that either of them had known in their youth.

The life she and Pierre built became the ground her family took root in. Her children and their families settled in Redondo Beach. The lives that followed, for her children, grandchildren, and for the generations still to come, would have been difficult to imagine from where her story began. She chose to imagine them anyway.

Yet Maria never defined herself by the adversity she overcame or the remarkable things she accomplished. She simply loved being alive.

Maria had a way of making ordinary life memorable. An afternoon walk might have involved surreptitiously “harvesting” fruit from a neighbor's tree. A shopping trip might just as easily be followed by an almost immediate trip back to the store, whether to return what she had just bought or to retrieve the wallet or sunglasses she usually had left behind. On occasion, she even managed to return clothes she had already altered for herself. Errands became outings, outings became adventures, and strangers rarely remained strangers for long.

She was glamorous, funny, adventurous, endlessly social, and almost always on the move. She loved sewing and shopping, traveling, long walks, and good company. She dressed beautifully, in clothes that rarely stayed the way she bought them. She exercised vigorously throughout her life and played tennis well into her later years. She hiked, explored, and was still climbing seaside cliffs with her grandchildren at Terranea in her eighties. Age seemed to interest her considerably less than whatever she had planned that day.

She loved people, and people were drawn to her. She laughed easily and made friends everywhere. There was an unmistakable vitality about her. She remained curious, beautifully put together, and remarkably youthful in spirit throughout her life. She grew older, but she never quite seemed to grow old.

Above all else was her family. Maria loved them generously and actively. She showed up, created memories, and opened doors and possibilities. Her children and grandchildren carry forward not only the opportunities her courage helped create, but also her humor, resilience, appetite for life, and deep belief that life was meant to be lived fully and without hesitation.

Maria is survived by her children, Rommy, Adriana, and Gerardo; Rommy's husband, Robert, and Gerardo's wife, Janeth; her grandchildren, Daniel and Natalia; her surviving sister, Marina; and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones across generations.

Maria died on August 8, 2026, at the age of 89. She leaves behind a family profoundly shaped by her life and countless memories of a woman who was impossible to reduce to a few words. She lived with courage, laughter, elegance, and joy—and made life larger for the generations that followed.

What a life she lived. What a legacy she leaves.

