

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Christina Marie Sancho Gomes

July 25, 1976 – July 7, 2026



Christina Marie Sancho Gomes, known for her warmth, faith, and strength, passed away on July 7, 2026, at the age of 49, with her husband and children by her side. She was aboard the Caribbean Princess, on the ocean that connected the places she loved most: America, the Azores, Portugal, and Europe. Her family finds comfort in knowing she spent her final days doing what brought her the greatest joy—traveling, whether visiting family, admiring historic sites and Catholic churches, or exploring the United States.

Born on July 25, 1976, in Fortuna, California, to Jose and Rosaline Sancho, Christina grew up in Rio Dell alongside her siblings, Joey, Robert, and Mary. She graduated from Fortuna High School and later attended College of the Redwoods. Driven by a deep desire to connect with her heritage, Christina took a courageous leap of faith in 2000, moving to Portugal to discover her roots. There she met the love of her life, Jorge Miguel Santos Gomes.

Christina and Jorge were married on St. Anthony's Day, June 13, 2004. They welcomed their first daughter, Vanessa, in Portugal before moving to California in 2007. The family settled in San Jose, where they welcomed Sabrina, Nelson, and Rafael. In 2017, they made Tracy their home. Christina's four children were her greatest pride and joy, and she devoted her life to loving and supporting them.

Christina refused to let circumstances dim her light. After receiving a terminal cancer diagnosis in October 2022, she faced every challenge with extraordinary courage and determination. She continued her education at California State University, Chico, persevering through the physical demands of her illness. She completed her coursework in fall 2023 and proudly walked in the spring 2024 commencement ceremony, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science.

Deeply rooted in her Portuguese heritage, Christina founded a Portuguese Community School, teaching her children and others who wished to learn the language and embrace their cultural traditions. She also served with pride and dedication as president of the Our Lady of Fatima Society of Tracy's 2025 Festa, reflecting her unwavering faith, generous spirit, and remarkable ability to bring people together in celebration and devotion.

Christina leaves a lasting legacy of love, resilience, and faith. She reminded everyone who knew her that a life well lived is measured not by its length, but by the love we share, the lives we touch, the places we explore, and the strength we show in the face of adversity.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Jorge; her children, Vanessa, Sabrina, Nelson, and Rafael; her siblings, Joey, Robert, and Mary; and a treasured community of extended family and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, July 24, 2026, at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 163 W. Eaton Ave., Tracy. A Celebration of Life will follow on Saturday, July 25, at 1 p.m. at the MRPS Portuguese Hall, 133 N. Grant Ave., Manteca, on what would have been Christina's 50th birthday.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made in Christina's honor to:

**Our Lady of Fatima
Society of Tracy**

