



Dear Sisters,

Sunday, September 13, 2020, at 10:00 AM, as the Christian community was celebrating the Passover of the Lord, at the National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chávez” in Mexico City (Mexico), Jesus Master went to meet his disciple and our sister

SR. M. GRACIA – M. CARMEN GARCÍA ARELLANO
born on January 20, 1942 in Puruandiro, Michoacan (Mexico).

Sr. M. Gracia García Arellano, who was sacramentally incorporated into the Church at her Baptism on February 22, 1942, in Puruándiro, Mich., with the name Maria Carmen, is inserted within the Trinitarian Mystery of God to live it fully through discipleship in a total offering of herself.

On September 5, 1959, at a very young age, M. Carmen entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Mexico City, joining the group of aspirants who were in formation for the lifestyle and spirituality of our Institute.

Having completed the regular formative itinerary, on December 8, 1960, she made her first religious profession in Mexico City. She made her perpetual profession on December 8, 1965, at the same location. She was described as a person who truly loves her vocation; manifesting a good spirit of piety and virtue, trustworthy and generous.

At various times she fulfilled the priestly apostolate in the communities of the Society of Saint Paul in Mexico City (1960 and 1971), in the workshops for embroidery and sewing in Mexico City and Guadalajara. She also collaborated in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers and as secretary in the *Kairos* Program.

Due to her personal characteristics and her dedication to the religious life as a Sister Disciple, she inspired esteem and appreciation among the major superiors so that she was soon entrusted with roles of responsibility to foster the growth of fraternal life and the mission of the community in which she found herself. She was appointed local councilor; Postulant Mistress, then Junior Mistress, and Regional Secretary and Councilor for various terms (1987–1993 and 1996–1999).

As a person who loved her vocation as a Sister Disciple, she was a woman of prayer and of charity for the most urgent needs of the Church and of the Pauline Family.

The sisters of the Province of Mexico wrote about her:

The Divine Master gave our sister, M. Gracia, the gift of transcendence, the spirit of fidelity to the charism received and transmitted by our Congregation. She also had a high sense of obedience to the superiors and knew how to make her life of discipleship an imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary "preserving in her heart what she did not understand". Obedience led her to lovingly carry out various services for the good of the brothers and sisters within the mission of service to the Eucharist, to the Priesthood and to the Liturgy through her active presence in the

Pauline seminaries, her care at the Liturgical Apostolate Center, her creativity in embroidery and painting, as well as her collaboration in the government of the Circumscription as a regional councilor and as provincial secretary.

During these last years, she dedicated herself to catechesis, accompanying a group of parents of children being prepared for First Holy Communion. They appreciated the closeness and solicitude of Sr. M. Gracia, who attentively counseled them in their life of faith. After learning of her death, one of them said: "She taught me to pray and brought me closer to God; I am eternally grateful to her".

Suffering from cardiac dysfunction and aware of the frailty of her health following numerous cardiac crises that had been overcome in recent years, she wrote a farewell letter: "To all the Brothers, Disciples, friends, being ready to begin my final journey to the Father's House, I wish to greet each one of you. Thank you for the affection and love that you have shown me. I want to tell you that I love you very much: to some I have told you in words, and to many others I have said it with my heart. I experienced that God the Father has placed a great love within me and that my task is to share that love with everyone through my daily apostolate and daily prayer. I ask forgiveness of anyone to whom I have not made clear what I feel and live. I assure you that in life you were in my prayers, and there with God I will always remember you. Sr. M. Gracia García A."

The Sisters of the Community shared these beautiful memories of Sr. M. Gracia: "She was a sister who fought to be faithful to her vocation, overcoming all the obstacles. A sister of prayer and responsibility for the duties entrusted to her. She always thought well of the others and was ready to help them. She was distinguished for her sense of belonging to the Congregation. She was sincere, sincere in her personal life; always in communication with the Word of God. A great person with an exemplary life on the human and spiritual levels. Since the novitiate, she liked to give advice and act as a formator. Ready to serve. Filled with gentleness and tenderness".

During the last two years, Sr. M. Gracia experienced the loss of her two brothers: always with the strength and fraternity of the sisters of the community, she overcame these difficult moments, which clearly also weakened her heart. At the beginning of the pandemic, she went to Monterrey with Sr. M. Marta to assist her in decorating the chapel of the new house. It was an experience that she greatly enjoyed and helped her to savor the greatness of her mission as a Sister Disciple. When she returned from Monterrey she continued her mission among the group of catechists.

Cardiac complications forced her to enter the specialized clinic in which she concluded her earthly pilgrimage, sharing the lot of those who must undergo this decisive moment in their life with the conditions of isolation imposed by Covid. Although in solitude, the community accompanied her with intense prayer which, in faith, bridges every physical distance.

May the sweet Mother of Christ here on earth, welcome you, O Sr. M. Gracia, as we contemplate her standing upright at the foot of the Cross of her Son! May you be united with the ranks of the Sisters and Pauline Brothers who already enjoy the beatific vision.

Sr. M. Michael Moneth'