



Dear Sisters,

Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 3:30 PM, in the community of San Paolo in Mexico City (Mexico), Jesus Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. ELENA – ANITA BALLESTEROS GUTIÉRREZ
born on July 26, 1948, in Iramuco, Guanajuato (Mexico).

She was born on the feastday of Saints Joachim and Ann. Brought to the baptismal font on August 3 of the same year, she was named Anita. She is the sixth of the seven children of Nemorio and Victoria Gutiérrez: 4 brothers and 3 sisters. Her sister, Angelina, a few years older, entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in 1957 and received the name of Sr. M. Anunciación Ballesteros at her religious profession. Following her example, Anita left the family at sixteen years of age and, on January 16, 1964, she entered the Congregation as an Aspirant at the Divine Master House in Mexico City. Here she completed the various stages of the formation process and, after the novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1968. On March 25, 1974 she made her perpetual profession, in the Divine Master House in Mexico City.

Throughout her religious life she fulfilled the mission of the Sister Disciples with generosity and love in the various communities.

She willingly offered her priestly service in the Pauline communities of the Society of St. Paul in various cities and times: in Mexico City from 1969 to 1973; from 1986 to 1987; from 1998 to 2003; from 2003 to 2005 and lately from 2017-2021. In Guadalajara: from 1976 to 1978; from 1991-1992; and from 2008-2010 in San Pedrito at the Alberione community. In Monterrey: from 1985 to 1986.

She dedicated herself also in the workrooms for ecclesiastical tailoring and embroidery to help the people of God pray in beauty: in Guadalajara DM from 1975 to 1976 for ecclesiastical tailoring and in Monterrey: from 1978 to 1980 in the embroidery workroom of the Divine Master House.

She dedicated herself to the Liturgical Apostolate Center, where she was in direct contact with the priests and laity in various cities: from 1973 to 1975, in the Divine Master house in Mexico City; from 1980 to 1985 in Monterrey; from 1992 to 1994 in the Ma-

dre Lucía community, Mexico City. Again in Monterrey from 1994-1998. For a brief period she was transferred to the Timoteo Giaccardo community in Aguascalientes. She returned to the Madre Lucia community in Mexico City from 2005 to 2008 and from 2010 to 2012. Then she returned to Aguascalientes for a short time. From 2013 to 2014 she was transferred to the Madre Tecla community in Guadalajara. From 2014 to 2016 she was transferred to the Madre Scolastica community in Matamoros.

For some years (1987-1991) she was in Rome, in the Regina degli Apostoli community, to collaborate in the Souvenir shop at Saint Peter's in the Vatican. This offered her the possibility of direct contact with the foundational places of the Congregation and of the Pauline Family.

From the beginning of her religious formation, Sr. M. Elena is characterized as manifesting a good character, good will, serenity and generosity in the fulfillment of her duties, as well as maturity and firmness in her vocation as a Sister Disciple. In her relationship with the other sisters she was joyful and simple in the daily sharing, and fostered a pleasant and serene community life. The sisters remember her as a generous person who lived in simplicity and fullness each moment of life, enjoying the little things.

In the last years her health began to progressively weaken, manifesting a series of problems that did not prevent her from continuing in her mission. Recently she was diagnosed with severe anemia, which weakened her immune system. When she went to the doctor, on August 21, she tested positive for Covid-19 and received the appropriate treatment at home. Little by little, however, despite the qualified assistance, the clinical picture worsened and led to her death.

In order to provide for the care necessary for her serious condition, Sr. M. Sara Beatriz Serrano, the Provincial Superior who is also her niece, remained at her side. In the serenity and peacefulness of the afternoon, she died in her arms, going to meet the Divine Master who definitively called her into his presence.

Like a prudent virgin she was found ready for her Bridegroom, surrounded also by the prayer and attention of the Pauline brothers, and of the community to which she belonged. "Come, blessed of my Father, receive the inheritance of the kingdom prepared for you before the creation of the world, because I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, ..." (Mt 25:34-35). These are the words of the spousal greeting which, we hope, welcomed our sister into the Banquet of Eternal Life.

Sr. M. Michael Honeth