



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 14, 2022, at 8:00 AM, on Saturday, in the DM Community of Bogotá (Colombia) our sister went to the heavenly homeland

**SR.M. JUDITH – ELISA VARGAS CARRIÒN
born on October 30, 1945 in Claraval, Cundinamarca (Colombia).**

The name of her birthplace partially describes the environment of her origins: a valley in the Andean chain not far from Bogotá. The city is presented as a “pretty” land of peace, almost a natural paradise. This environment seems to have contributed to the formation of the character of Elisa, by nature rather timid, loving silence, shying away from useless words. She was baptized on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1945, and grew up in a discretely numerous family: she is the second of six children: 4 sisters and 2 brothers. She entered the Congregation in Bogotá DM on January 25, 1974, as an adult with experience in life and in work. She completed the initial formation and, after the novitiate, made her first profession on August 15, 1978. In her request to be admitted to the perpetual profession, which she would make in Bogotá on August 15, 1984, she wrote: *«Having become aware of what it means for me to offer myself totally to the Lord and having had a long journey of experience and preparation, I was able to broaden the vision of my vocation and to love it; I have decided, therefore, to offer myself for my entire life to the service of the Church for the good of my brothers»*. Following her request for admission to perpetual profession, she affirmed that she had great confidence in the help of Mary, Queen of the Apostles. In the favorable evaluation of those in positions of responsibility, they emphasized the progress of Sr. M. Judith in deepening her life in the Spirit and her love for the Institute that was reflected in a life that was serene and enthusiastic.

As an apostolate, she spent various periods in the embroidery workroom: in Bogotá, Cúcuta, and Cali. She had hands of gold in her care for every type of embroidery for albs and chasubles, always with the desire to serve the priests as well as possible.

During some periods she offered her collaboration in the Houses of the Society of Saint Paul: in Bogotá (1983 – 1986) then in Medellín in 1990. She expressed her tactfulness and maternal attention in the exercise of the priestly apostolate also at the Episcopal Conference in Quito (Ecuador) where she offered her service from 2015 until 2020.

Earlier and for a long period, Sr M Judith was the portress at the DM House in Bogotá where she demonstrated a great capacity for listening and a refined sense of hospitality

for the persons who visited the community: friends, benefactors, clients of the Liturgical Apostolate Center, etc.

In the memorial written by the sisters of Colombia, they appreciated her availability and adaptability to the various communities. In fact, Sr. M. Judith was gifted with a tranquil, serene, sociable character. Her conciliatory style led her to promote the search for peace and harmony in the fraternal sharing, the fruit of an interior calm and serenity that was well developed. She did not get lost in useless discussions, saving her energies for the apostolate and for the daily duties.

On February 25, 2021, Sr. M. Judith returned to Bogotá, Colombia, from Ecuador with a diagnosis of stomach cancer, for which she began chemotherapy and the treatments necessary for her situation. She suffered a great deal but offered to the Lord her sickness, which progressively advanced.

A person of much prayer, she was faithful to her encounters with the Divine Master. In the midst of the pain of her illness, she usually affirmed: *«I look for the moments in which I am feeling better to go to the Eucharistic Adoration. This is what gives me strength because these last days of my illness were ones of great struggle with the will of God. I do not ask God to take away the pain, but to give me the grace to bear it with serenity and, if it is his will, to restore my health».*

In a recent letter to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, still from Ecuador, she wrote: *«I am very happy to be a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master, under the guidance of Mary, Queen of the Apostles. I will continue to give my life with enthusiasm and joy for vocations and for the sanctification of priests».*

God accepted her offering on the morning of May 14, on a Saturday, as she desired.

Sr. M. Judith, now that you live in the presence of God, present again to the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, the vocations, priests, the upcoming General Chapter of the Society of Saint Paul, the beginning of our Chapter itinerary and peace in the world!

S. H. Paolo Mancini