



Dear Sisters,

Wednesday, October 10, 2024, at *Massachusetts General Hospital* in Boston (USA), at 11:50 PM, the Divine Master called to eternity his Disciple

**SR. M. LUZ – MARIA DE LA LUZ PICHARDO**  
**born on June 8, 1951, in Puruandiro – Michoacán (Mexico)**

The second of ten children, on June 17, the Sunday following her birth, she was brought to the baptismal font to enter into the great family of the sons and daughters of God. Having met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, on February 15, 1968, before her seventeenth birthday, she entered the Congregation in Mexico City to begin the formative journey for the consecrated life. She was a sociable and joyful young woman, enthusiastic about the works of the Congregation, generous and willing to understand and live ever more fully the spirit of the Pauline religious life.

She was sent to Brookline (Massachusetts) in the United States for the novitiate, at the conclusion of which she made her religious profession on September 8, 1971, in Fresno (California) and her perpetual profession on October 19, 1977, in Staten Island (New York).

She spent her entire religious life in the United States, in the various communities of the Delegation – Fresno, Detroit, San Jose, Boston, Staten Island, Los Angeles, Monrovia – carrying out the mission at the service of the Eucharist, the priesthood and the liturgy. For some years she was dedicated to ministry at the diocesan house for clergy *Regina Cleri* in Boston, as well as at the community of the Society of St. Paul in Staten Island and then in Los Angeles.

In 2020, with the closure of the house in Staten Island, she was transferred to Boston, assuming the service in the Liturgical Apostolate Center.

Inspired by the name she received at Baptism – Maria de la Luz – she was especially grateful for the gift of consecrated life and, over time, she grew in the awareness that she must correspond with as much coherence as possible to her personal mission of being a light shining daily and silently, like a candle that casts light and warmth .

She sought to understand better the specific charism and, after participating in an initiative of the Congregation to deepen the charismatic identity of the Sister Disciple in Italy in 1977, she continued to dedicate herself with greater zeal to live and foster the beauty of the priestly vocation that is rooted in Baptism and matured in the various ecclesial ministries.



The sisters of the community testify that she was a calm person, a person of peace. She rarely showed anger; even in the occasions of inevitable discord – as is normal – she knew how to reconcile herself readily, without remaining distant or cold for long periods in interpersonal relationships. Truly this is a great virtue that fosters a fraternal and serene lifestyle.

She developed an interior harmony that was expressed in the small gestures and attentions. She loved colors and well-executed design; she enjoyed preparing the materials and colored paper for the displays in the Liturgical Apostolate Center or community celebrations. These were her happiest moments. In addition, she had a great sense of humor and a great sense of moderation, in speaking and in keeping silence, which characterized her relationship with those outside of the community, especially the lay persons and priests who frequented the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Boston.

Confidentially she often spoke about important topics: about life, religious life, family, friends, about everything and anything. She faced life's problems calmly. And speaking about the end of her life, she often confided that she was not afraid of death. She was trusting and often repeated: "What will be, will be!". Conscious of her own vulnerability, she was understanding of the fragility of others and cared for the persons who were more fragile, seeking to console them even if only by a gentle word. A woman of prayer, she placed great trust in the power of intercession in the prayer of the Rosary. She united her daily time of Eucharistic adoration with simple acts of charity, especially toward the persons who are poorer and disadvantaged.

A month ago, the sisters of Boston organized the celebration for the conclusion of the Centennial. For the occasion, His Eminence Cardinal Sean O'Malley pronounced words of appreciation for our service in the diocese and for our specific vocation. Sr. M. Luz was tired from the preparations, but happy with this event that renewed in her the gift of the charism received.

Last September 26, she suddenly felt ill, and was brought to the Emergency Room at *Massachusetts General Hospital*, where she was diagnosed with a double cerebral aneurysm. The community and the priests in Boston accompanied her with prayer and fraternal support in these days, visiting her daily. On Wednesday, October 2, she received the Anointing of the Sick and the Apostolic Blessing. After this moment of prayer, and in consultation with the family, the doctors removed her from life support. Sr. M. Luz continued to breathe peacefully until the arrival of her family members from Mexico. When they arrived in Boston, they immediately went to the hospital: they prayed and spent time with her until her return to the Father's House.

So, dear sister, we want to remember you: silent in service at the Liturgical Center, welcoming everyone with your serene smile, ability to joke and make others smile. Thus, as we have a foretaste of the Eucharistic feast and of the Centennial of Foundation together, now accompany us in our earthly life that we may authentically transmit the evangelical lifestyle that characterizes every disciple of Jesus Master.

Sr. M. Hilda Monetti

Rome, October 12, 2024

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Sr. M. Micaela Monetti

