



Dear Sisters,

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, from the Ramón y Cajal Hospital in Madrid (Spain), at 6:00AM, Jesus the Divine Master called to eternity his disciple

**SR. M. HORTENSIA - EDITA PUENTE**  
**born on September 16, 1933, in Villaseca de la Sobarriba, León (Spain).**

On September 18, a few days after her birth, the little girl was brought to the baptismal font and received the gift of filial adoption enabling her to become part of the great family of God and, in Easter faith, to share in his gifts of grace.

She was raised in a large family, in the small town of Villaseca de la Sobarriba, and it was here that she met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. She had not yet reached her twentieth birthday when she left home to experience religious life and to confirm her call to love God more intensely and generously serve humanity. It was January 12, 1953, and she was accepted into the community of Bilbao, where she began the formative itinerary in the life of the Institute.

She was sent to Alba, Italy, to join the group of young women in formation, and then reached Rome where, upon completing the novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1956. She was then sent to London to dedicate herself to the priestly ministry in the community of the Society of St. Paul (1956 - 1960) and, upon returning to Rome, she was sent to the Centers for *Souvenirs* in the Vatican. In these first years of consecrated life she also managed in the art of tailoring, but her desire was to dedicate herself to sacred art.

Upon completion of the period of temporary vows, on March 25, 1961, she made her perpetual profession in the community of *Regina Apostolorum* in Rome. After the perpetual profession, in 1961, she left as a missionary to Australia, where she remained until 1995.

Sr. M. Hortensia was one of the pioneer sisters who contributed toward the foundation of the Congregation in Australia, together with Mother Annunziata Stanizzi and the other pioneer sisters. In the Delegation, in fact, she is remembered with much love, affection, and gratitude.

Sr. M. Hortensia was entrusted with the responsibility of forming part of the team of formators. She diligently cared for the young aspirants and postulants, guiding them with much love and encouraging them in their formative journey. At times, Sr. M. Hortensia could be rather firm and, when the young candidates needed to be corrected for some mistake they made or things that needed to be improved, she always concluded by telling them: *I am telling you this because I love you.*

Here are some of their testimonies: «Sr. Ortensia was a sister who was very good, kind and generous; she was my dearest friend» (*Sr. M. Ilaria Oyama*).

*Sr. M. Angelica Shiota*, another Japanese sister, recalled the times in which Sr. M. Hortensia cared for her when she was not well: «When I was sick, she always showed me great care and solicitude.



For example, when I had the flu, she prepared a special hot medicinal drink and she made sure that I had everything I needed».

*Sr. M. Bernadette Abdilla*, a Maltese sister, remembered her as a person who was kind, but also somewhat severe.

*Sr. M. Christine Pisani*, recalled the time she spent with Sr. M. Hortensia when the house in Auckland, New Zealand, was opened. «She was my superior, and I was a newly professed sister. Sr. M. Hortensia was like a mother to me; she encouraged and helped me in many ways and many situations in my life to grow in the PDDM vocation and mission. I was edified by her loving dedication and spirit of sacrifice, but especially by her positive and concrete approach to life and its challenges. She loved to laugh and she was able to laugh at her own mistakes. She was friendly, with an attractive personality. Everyone felt comfortable in her presence. She was a person who was genuinely warm and compassionate. An person of integrity who rejected falsehood or duplicity in all its forms or expressions».

*Sr. M. Catherine Attard*: «Sr. M. Hortensia was very diligent in the good use of time for the apostolate. She taught us the importance and the beauty of our ministry and emphasized that we should never waste time during the apostolate and to do everything with the right intention. She lived her consecrated life and her mission in an edifying manner, and she taught us not only by words but through her example how precious our specific PDDM vocation is. It was amusing to stay with Sr. M. Hortensia! She always made us feel comfortable and we could simply be ourselves».

*Sr. M. Paolina Connell*: «I met Sr. M. Hortensia for the first time in 1983. She later became the assistant for the novices and then my superior at the house for priests in Melbourne. She was very firm in her relationships with each of us, but she was very loving. She showed charity and kindness toward everyone. The last time I saw Sr. M. Hortensia was when she came to Australia for her 50th anniversary of profession. It was a time of joy for everyone».

*Sr. M. Kathryn Williams*: «When I entered the Congregation in 1976, Sr. M. Hortensia was in Auckland, New Zealand. She made everyone feel at home, me and my family, and she had the gift of making others smile, whether for her halting English or her humoristic expressions. She often said that I was her vocation! She was then transferred to Sydney, where she was always faithful to her community and whatever service she offered. We, as novices, found in her a source of joy and, even if she corrected us, we didn't care. She had the capacity to almost excuse herself if she found a fault! She was a woman of prayer and I have many happy memories of her.

Sr. M. Hortensia will pass in the history of the Congregation, and especially in the Australian Delegation, as a great disciple, a woman of profound faith and integrity, loving, gentle and generous. A truly marvelous sister who possessed many beautiful human and spiritual qualities. She was a devout missionary who truly loved the people of Australia and of New Zealand, and the people loved her».

In 1995, she returned definitively to Spain, in Madrid, and she actively participated in various apostolic and community services. Her heart remained that of a missionary, open to life, in the joy that was nourished by daily prayer, which she carried out lovingly and faithfully.

Sr. M. Hortensia, with a great heart and smiling, continues to be a source of inspiration for all of us and for the future generations.

Rome, March 17, 2025

*Sr. M. Micaela Monetti*

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