



Dearest Sisters,

Today, 18 January 2006, at 11:20 pm, in *Antipolo Doctors' Hospital*, Philippines, the Divine Master called to himself,

Sr. M. Luisa, Clarita Fallado
born on 21 October 1935, at Lanuza, Surigao del Sur (Philippines).

Sr. M. Luisa hailed from one of the regions of the Island of Mindanao, a territory particularly exposed to violence and religious conflict (among Christians and Muslims). On this first day of Prayer "*to unite all believers in the unity of peace,*" the Lord has asked from the Congregation this contribution, a living offering pleasing to him.

On the evening of 17 January, while at supper, Sr. M. Luisa suffered from significant respiratory trouble and was immediately rushed to the nearest hospital. She was diagnosed with mild heart attack and was given the necessary assistance. The day after, towards evening, her condition became serious and notwithstanding all attempts to resuscitate her, she finally ended her earthly pilgrimage at 11:20 pm, local time.

Sr. M. Luisa spent the first years of her religious life in Italy where she entered in the novitiate on 24 March 1963. She made her First Religious Profession on 25 March 1964 and her Perpetual Profession on 15 August 1969, all in Rome, after which she returned to her homeland. She was assigned many times in the Pauline houses, both in Italy and in the Philippines. She worked as well in the embroidery department. Because of her love for Italy, she herself requested to return there for a few years (1989-1994) and worked in the *Vatican Souvenirs at St. Peter's*. Within this period, she was also asked to render a brief missionary contribution in Portugal. Due to her fragile health, specifically her heart ailment and hypertension, she had to return to her homeland. There she still got involved in various activities, helping especially in the Liturgical Apostolate.

Those who have been closed to Sr. M. Luisa experienced her jovial spirit. With this characteristic, she manifested that gospel spirit of "littleness" which enabled her to enjoy life and treat the sisters with delicateness. She also used her gift of providing for the needs of the Congregation. She cultivated the paschal spirit, in her capacity to recognize the blessings that the Lord gave her through the persons and the Congregation. In her brief writings, she expressed her gratitude, transforming everything in prayer. She also welcomed her personal limitations, especially her slowness and she showed interest in learning new things.

On the occasion of the death of her brother and her father (1987), she accepted the sacrifice and united to it some intentions: *for the peace of the world, especially in her homeland; for increase of vocations in the Congregation; for the particular intentions of Mother General, and for the needs of her family*. Sr. M. Luisa's generosity in the spiritual life became a spirit of offering. Such spirit is also present in this ultimate self-offering to the Heavenly Father, which she lived like a "call" that is not really unexpected. As a matter of fact, she usually spoke about her passage to eternity in a very natural way, manifesting perfect availability to the Lord's will.

In as far as it was granted to her, she made herself available to collaborate in other nations: in Ireland (1966 – 1968), in Italy and in Portugal, with the spirit of adaptability and missionary style characteristic of the Filipina sisters. They feel the call to live the missionary spirit of the Congregation as inculcated to them by Primo Maestro during his visit in 1963: *More than half of humankind live in the Orient...hence you must establish yourselves in this country in order to constitute a center of prayer for all the apostolic and missionary action of the regions surrounding the Philippine Islands. Now, if you fulfil this mission here, you will be a living center of life and grace" (cf PD 1963 n. 36)*. The Province, includes, apart from the Philippines, the countries of Taiwan, Hong Kong (China) and now also the youth from Vietnam undergoing their formation. With this, they concretely respond to the mission, particularly made more challenging in this year of the Celebration of the 50th Jubilee of Foundation.

Sr. M. Luisa, now that you could sing and dance your *Magnificat* before God's throne, invoke also his consolation for your sisters here, still dazed by your definitive departure!

Sr. M. Paola Mancini