



Dear Sisters,

Today, January 4, 2016, at 6:00 AM (local time) in the Divine Master Community of Cordoba (Argentina), the Lord called to the final encounter our sister,

SR. M. CARMEN MAFALDA RIBICHINI
born on June 28, 1932, in Sanford (Santa Fe) - Argentina.

Her parents were of Italian origin: the synthesis of the two different cultures grew in her and with her. In fact, Sr. M. Carmen fostered a profound love for her parents' country of origin. Mafalda entered the community of the Sister Disciples in Buenos Aires on June 6, 1951. The pastor's introduction underscored the fact that her parents were profoundly Christian and that the young woman showed herself to be exemplary in her behavior, pious, and one who received the sacraments regularly. *"She has desired the religious life for a number of years, and shows promise in the vocation"* (Fr. Ambrosio Mollaret, Pastor).

In the journey of the novitiate, she was guided by Mother Scholastica, who was the novice mistress at that time. A note from that year presents her as having the following characteristics: *"Her character is peaceful, intelligent, industrious and active, silent, pious. She has a great love for the religious life and for the Congregation. To be fostered"*. At the conclusion of the novitiate, she made her religious profession at Buenos Aires on March 25, 1953. Five years later she made her perpetual profession at the same location. Mother M. Scholastica Rivata continued to oversee her formative journey. She signed some reports for the admission to the vows, particularly for the perpetual profession, underscoring that, despite her limits; she shows much goodness and fidelity to her duties. The card prepared as a remembrance of her perpetual profession contains a thought that motivated her throughout her life: *"Behold the gift of my life, O Divine Master! I offer it to you through the hands of Mary. May I become a candid host for love of you. May I be a living prayer for my loved ones, for the entire world, and especially for your priests"*.

She frequented some courses – oncology, clinical rehabilitation, clinical psychology, geriatrics – that were useful in the fulfillment of her ministry for priests: from 1957 – 1965 she offered her service in the priestly apostolate in Florida (Buenos Aires) at the Society of St. Paul, where she would return from 1976 – 1983, at which time she was also local superior initially. From 1983 – 1986 she was at Cordoba, at the Fr. Alberione House for diocesan priests. The doctors always valued her attention to the health of the persons and her dedication. In 2004 she was nominated local superior in the community of Mar del Plata. In this house, especially in the summer months, hospitality was offered to priests. The Chapel is a center for prayer, especially for the perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, with the active participation of the laity, and especially the members of the *Holy Family Institute* and the Cooperators – *"Friends of the Divine Master"*. She also spent some periods in the Divine Master houses.

In her correspondence with Mother M. Lucia Ricci, then Superior General, she expressed her gratitude for her instructions encouraging fraternity, harmony, the love of God and of neighbor.

Sr. M. Carmen, one might say, cultivated a weekday holiness. She had a lively desire for continual progress that encouraged her to nurture her spiritual work, her prayer life, and harmony in her community relationships. Calm by nature, she communicated peace and serenity to those around her, contributing to a familiar and serene environment. She consumed all her energy in selfless service.

Stricken with Alzheimer's, Sr. M. Carmen spent this last year in the infirmary at the Divine Master community in Cordoba. For nearly six months she was unable to speak, although she was vigilant in everything. She communicated by signs and facial expressions, and was always serene. This morning, she left us very peacefully following a heart attack.

Sr. M. Carmen, go in peace to meet your Spouse who is coming to bring you with him into his Kingdom. Remember us, the sisters in Argentina, the priests for whom you cared so much, and all the young people the Divine Master invites to follow him. Praise the Most Holy Trinity with the Pauline community of Heaven!

S. H. Paolo Mancini