



Dear Sisters,

Today, April 23, 2016, in the Divine Master community of Antipolo (Philippines), at 12:30 PM (local time), the Risen Lord came to call to himself

**SR. M. BERNARD (FLORDELIS) OBALLO,
born on June 5, 1945, in Carigara - Leyte – Visaya (Philippines).**

Flordelis, after a period of mature reflection and drawn by the contemplative dimension of their life, entered the community of the Sister Disciples in Antipolo, near Manila, on June 4, 1968. She had already completed her degree in agriculture, which made her sensitive to nature, gardening, and ecology. Her large family of origin contributed toward rendering her sociable and industrious. Following the novitiate, she made her first profession in Antipolo on December 8, 1972, and her perpetual profession on May 31, 1979. In her request for admission to the perpetual profession she wrote: *“At the school of the Divine Master I learned the profound richness of the contemplative life, the joy and the privilege of serving Jesus Master in his priests and in the Liturgy. I feel the urge to offer myself totally in all the dimensions of our apostolate. Therefore, I ask to embrace the consecrated life and to belong to the Divine Master forever. I desire to remain faithful to my vocation and mission, and continue to discover the depths of the spirit of the Congregation.”* (January 15, 1979)

This sister manifested various practical talents: gardening, house maintenance, and a marked artistic sensibility that was expressed in various ways. After profession, she was initially in the embroidery in Antipolo and responsible for the maintenance of the garden. In 1973 she was exercising the priestly apostolate at the Society of St. Paul in Makati. At the end of the same year until 1976, she was in the community of Cebu. From this reality she wrote to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, then Superior General: *“It is about a year that I am in Cebu, always with the desire to love and serve Jesus Master and make him known to the people of Cebu. We are enjoying the simple and decorous Divine Master house, and striving to form a beautiful community like that of Nazareth. Thanks to you and to the Congregation. After a difficult period for vocations, it seems that there is a reawakening and many young women are interested in our Congregation and apostolate (...). The faithful have begun to join us for the adoration, which we strive to prolong throughout the day. Various young people come to pray and to admire our beautiful chapel. We are grateful to Sr. M. Angelica Ballan for this place that helps the people to praise the Creator in beauty”.* (Cebu, August 20, 1974)

From 1976 until 1980 she was dedicated to the study of Theology and various services in the community of Antipolo. From 1980 to 1987, she was at the Society of St. Paul in Makati, where from 1981, she served two terms as local superior. In 1990 she was asked to assist in the United States, and was nominated local superior in Los Angeles. Upon her return to the Philippines, she was once again at the Society of St. Paul in Makati, where in 1997 she was appointed local superior. In this apostolate she worked primarily in the kitchen and she affirmed that she learned to find joy in this hidden and humble mission. She was a caring and generous person. Twice she was also at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Davao. In 2007 she was in the workroom at Antipolo.

In 2014, suffering from renal insufficiency as a complication of diabetes, she began dialysis. Consequent complications were the immediate cause of death.

Sr. M. Gemma Victorino, Provincial Superior of the Philippines/Taiwan/Hong Kong Province wrote: *“Peace in the Risen Lord! I am in the south (Iligan City)... I am able to testify that Sr. M. Bernard prepared herself interiorly during these last days and cultivated her interior life in the midst of physical suffering. When we met some days ago, before I left to visit the communities, she told me that she is praying a great deal for the intentions of the Holy Father and for the initiatives of the Congregation, especially for the 9th General Chapter and for other projects of the Province.”*

We give thanks to the Lord for Sr. M. Bernard who, as a Sister Disciple, lived the total offering of herself to the Divine Master, zealous for the mission, for the initiatives of the Congregation, and capable of entering into dialog with youth. Now continue, sister, to present to the Father’s mercy the realities you lived apostolically in your heart, and rest in peace in the heart of God!

S. H. Paolo Mancini