



Dear Sisters,

Today, June 3, 2016, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at 9:30 AM local time, in the Sucre Clinic in Cordoba (Argentina), the Divine Master, with the heart of the Good Shepherd, led our sister to the pastures of eternal life:

SR. M. CELINA BEATRÍZ SENA
born in Corrientes (Argentina) on September 25, 1928.

Beatríz entered the Congregation in Buenos Aires on February 9, 1951, in the flower of youth, demonstrating a certain “ingenuity” that characterized her entire life and conferred an innocent beauty to her minute frame that was almost summarized in her luminous, intelligent and energetic gaze. After the initial stages of formation and the novitiate, she made her religious profession in Florida on March 25, 1953, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, and the perpetual profession in Buenos Aires on March 25, 1958.

Her novice mistress was our Venerable Mother Scholastica Rivata, who lived in Argentina from 1948 until 1963. From her she learned the humble Eucharistic offering of life in simplicity and joy. It was Mother Scholastica who, with other sisters, signed the report of the young professed. She underscored the generosity, love for the Congregation and the progress in the interior life of Sr. M. Celine, who had to overcome a certain attachment to her own ideas, her stubborn character, and tendency toward scrupulosity.

In her remembrance of the first religious profession and the perpetual profession, Sr. M. Celine referred to her offering as a “small victim” in union with Christ and the priests who celebrate the Eucharist. It is significant that the consummation of her consecrated life as a Sister Disciple took place precisely on this world day of prayer for the sanctification of priests, and while thousands of priests were gathered in Rome, with Pope Francis, to celebrate the extraordinary jubilee of the Mercy.

In the fullness of strength, Sr. M. Celina worked almost always in Buenos Aires, first at the service of the Society of St. Paul in Florida and offering her contribution to *Domus Dei* (1951-1953), and then in Navarro in the workrooms for the vestments, painting and ceramics. Upon her return from Italy (1964-1966), she completed a course in ceramics (1969) and began this apostolate together with other sisters, in a contest of generosity and sacrifice.

Creatively and artistically, she worked for as long as her strength permitted and then retired, so to speak, to the daily domestic services, always maintaining a watchful eye to assist wherever possible, with unaltered zeal and vivacity, first at Buenos Aires and then at Cordoba, where Jesus Master called her to enter the joy of the wedding banquet as a good and faithful disciple. Missionary to those she met, catechist for First Communion, a lover of the pastoral work for vocations, filled with initiatives to make Jesus known, she became detached from herself and available to all people. Attentive to the life of the Church and of society she, like Mother Scholastica, was a knowledgeable and vivacious person. This is how she is remembered by the sisters of Argentina, who also underscore her delicateness and her serene and affectionate presence that perfumed the house. A sign of this is the last letter she sent me this year, in which she thanks for the birthday greetings and says that, in the presence of Jesus, she renews her offering while experiencing the joy of her life offered to God and being surrounded by many spiritual and material graces.

With advancing age there were also recurring weaknesses in her health. In May she was hospitalized in the Sucre clinic in Cordoba for surgery to correct a circulatory problem in her left leg; but she was brought to the intensive care unit for subsequent pulmonary edema. As a result of complications, she concluded her earthly life, in clear consciousness, thanking all and expressing the desire to finally encounter the Virgin Mary and Jesus, her Spouse, for whom she waited her entire life. This is another precious pearl with which God has blessed our Congregation. Rest in peace, Sr. M. Celina, and pray for Pope Francis, for Argentina, for vocations and for the 9th General Chapter.

Sr. M. Regina Casato