



*Dear Sisters,*

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, the merciful and good Father suddenly called to himself our sister

**SR. MARIA JOSÈ - ELIMA ESTAROFILDA ROMERO  
born in Los Tajamares – Cordoba (Argentina) on June 1, 1955.**

She entered the Congregation in Cordoba on April 4, 1977, bringing with her experience matured in a Christian family. She lost her father as an adolescent and was raised by a mother who taught her six children about the Christian life and work, in the midst of the trials of life.

Fascinated by the religious life, she wrote to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, the Superior General at that time: “When I was young I discovered my vocation, and when the pastor introduced me to the Sister Disciples, I liked them immediately. As soon as I was old enough, I left my family and now I am happy”.

At the conclusion of the Novitiate, she made her religious profession in Cordoba on February 10, 1982, and her perpetual profession on February 10, 1991. She was a joyful, sociable and generous sister who, though she had her personal limitations, enthusiastically fulfilled the work entrusted to her. In the service of animation, she left a favorable impression as a sister who was creative, vivacious and dedicated to the mission: sharing with everyone the great treasure of Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life.

After the first profession, she was in Buenos Aires at the service of the community, and then from 1987 to 1997 she was sent to Cordoba, where she guided the Pauline Cooperators – Friends of the Divine Master and was also entrusted with the responsibility for the House of Prayer.

She participated in the course on the Charism of the Pauline Family in Rome (2005-2006), during which she researched the relationship between St. Paul the Apostle and Father Alberione. She returned to Argentina with the wealth and experience matured in that experience of the Pauline Family and transmitted to the people she met, to young people and in the mission the beauty of the Pauline charism of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master.

After her term as local superior in Cordoba (2009-2012), she was sent to the community of Comodoro Rivadavia, where she was dedicated to liturgical animation and ministry in the Liturgical Apostolate Center. She was then transferred to Corrientes where she animated youth groups, prayer groups, and continued her liturgical ministry. She transmitted her love for the Eucharist, for the priesthood of the baptized and the ordained ministers, and animated the liturgy by fostering the active and responsible participation of all.

In the mysterious design of God’s Providence, the good Father, who knows the hearts of his sons and daughters, suddenly called her to himself. Her life among us, still rich with energy, with love for Jesus Master and for her country, was tragically interrupted because of a serious road accident, thus becoming a clear and visible sign that we are made for Paradise, since we are only passing through this world. Sr. Maria José was leaving the church after the Eucharistic Celebration. It is also for this reason that we trust the merciful Father found her ready for the eternal wedding banquet.

We gather affectionately around her family members, with Sr. M. Josefina Aguirre, Superior of the Delegation, and all the sisters of Argentina, assuring them of our prayers and fraternal participation in the sorrow of this moment.

Sr. Maria José, in the fullness of her apostolic energy and in the joy of her existence, is united with the Sister Disciples who already constitute the community of Heaven, meeting Sr. M. Celina Sena who, only a few days ago, left the earthly community of Cordoba. Together they will continue to intercede for vocations in Argentina and for the fidelity of all the members in our journey toward the 9th General Chapter.

*Sr. M. Elma Estaro Filda Romero*