



Dear Sister,

In this Easter season, on the vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Jesus the Good Shepherd has placed on his shoulders a chosen sheep from the land of Mexico to bring her to the eternal pastures. Today, May 6, 2017, at 6:35 AM (local time) in the Divine Master House in Mexico City, the Lord called to eternity our sister

**SR. M. MERCEDES -MA. GLORIA GONZÁLEZ HERNANDEZ**  
**Born on May 20, 1930 in Coatepec Harinas – Edo de Mexico.**

When Maria Gloria entered the community in Mexico on June 13, 1957, at that time, she was already considered an adult. The community was still experiencing the atmosphere of the beginnings, typical of the foundational period of the Sister Disciples in Mexico. «On August 4, 1952, Sr. Maria Cormariae Brugiolo and Sr. Maria Ignazia Bellagamba departed from Genoa on the “Vulcania” bound for Mexico» (DM 1952).

Maria Gloria began her novitiate on December 7, 1959, and made her religious profession on December 8, 1960, and her perpetual profession on December 8, 1965, always in Mexico City.

A few simple notes regarding her personality, written for admission to the various formative stages, underscore her good will: she is generous and loves the Congregation; she strives to make progress; she prays well; she understands the religious spirit; she is somewhat slow, but always ready to offer herself in service to her sisters.

Her ministry alternated between the sewing workrooms and collaboration in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers: in 1957 she was in the workroom in Mexico City, in 1967 she was at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Guadalajara and local councilor. In 1977 she returned to Mexico City for embroidery, and then to Guadalajara in 1980. In 1985 she was in Rome for a year, during which time she assisted in various services in the General House. Upon her return to Mexico, she rendered her service at various times in the Liturgical Apostolate Center and in the workroom in Mexico City.

The Mexican sisters underscored how Sr. M. Mercedes distinguished herself especially for her great love for the Divine Master, for the Church, and for the Congregation. She was always diligent and provident in the mission. She courageously collaborated in the foundation of the apostolate, seeking and procuring sensitive and faithful benefactors. She studied the progress of the various initiatives of the Congregation, and she dedicated herself by offering her support to those in authority, transmitting to the sisters both trust and a positive attitude. She was distinguished for her strong love to the point of heroism, both for her vocation and for the Congregation. Her tenacity and initiative led her to a closer collaboration with Mother M. Oliva Cattapan († January 26, 1998) in the construction of the Don Alberione House, initially designed for sick and elderly priests, which is now the location of the *Genesis Program*. In the period preceding the acquisition of the land in Guadalajara for the construction of the Liturgical Apostolate Center and the Mother Tecla Community, her spirit of organization and persistence, inherited from her family, assisted her in her role as superior of this apostolic Center. .

For more than 10 years she suffered from an infirmity similar to Alzheimer's, which progressively worsened and was accompanied by increasing difficulty in communication: this required continual specialized assistance, and the ability to decipher any minimal sign of awareness. She experienced the charity and closeness of the sisters in her community, the Province, and her family. Thus she lived her paschal mystery united with the Sacrifice of Jesus, with signs of patience, and edifying goodness and peace.

May the Lord accept this offering as a victim pleasing to him in our community of discernment as a Chapter, seeking the will of God in the call of the Divine Master for the Congregation today.

The fresh spring air that blew in Mexico at the beginning of the formative journey of Sr. M. Mercedes, is felt also in our General Chapter, where as we listen to new and courageous openings, we experience the burning and driving power of the Holy Spirit. We feel the need to prophesy in the Church and in our world today, so filled with challenges and in rapid evolution. May her sacrifice reach the heart of the Heavenly Father like a prayer that now becomes incessant in eternity for new and generous vocations for the entire Pauline Family!

*Sr. H. Paolo Hancock*