



Dear sisters,

Today, December 4, 2015, at 1:59 AM (local time) in *Manila Medical Center* (Philippines), the Lord offered another sign of his coming by unexpectedly calling to the final meeting our sister

SR. M. JOSEPH SIMPLICIA PAGAMOCAN
born on March 2, 1946, in Gen. MacArthur, Eastern Samar (Philippines).

Simplicia entered the Congregation on June 22, 1970, at the Divine Master House in Antipolo. Following the novitiate, she made her first religious profession in Antipolo on December 8, 1971, and her perpetual vows on December 8, 1980, at the same location. Last year, with gratitude to God and together with the companions of her novitiate, she celebrated 40 years of religious consecration.

Immediately after profession, Sr. M. Joseph began her mission with service in the kitchen in Antipolo. After one year she is at Cebu working in the embroidery. Upon her return to Antipolo she worked in the kitchen and was also entrusted with maintaining contact with the benefactors, for whom she received a specific responsibility from 1978 to 1983. Sr. M. Joseph had a special gift for orienting those who had resources to collaborate with the works of the Congregation, and the persons who were asked felt that they were involved and motivated by a missionary spirit. From 1983 she spent two years in the St. Paul house of Makati.

In February of 1985 she began her missionary life in Taiwan, where she would remain for more than 20 years, alternating between the Divine Master House and longer periods at Saint Joseph's House for Priests in Xindian, New Taipei City. She distinguished herself for her care of the elderly and sick priests, who had often undergone severe trials in mainland China. At the end of 1999 she returned to the Philippines for a year, where she remained in the provincial house in Quezon City until her return to Taipei (Taiwan) toward the end of 2000.

Sr. M. Joseph loved Taiwan with an apostolic heart, desiring and nurturing the possibility for the mission of the Sister Disciples also in mainland China. She was not a great expert in the Chinese language (Mandarin), but she expressed herself with the language of the heart; a smile, a serene and welcoming face, and was thus able to communicate with everyone. She was a sister who desired to "give everything" in the simplicity of everyday life, like the widow of the Gospel, offering everything in serenity because she was motivated by the love for God and her neighbor.

In January of 2013 she returned to the Philippines because of health problems caused by a form of arthritis that rendered the work of the missionary life too difficult. She wrote in her journal, speaking to Jesus: *"Lord, you called me to return to the Philippines and I am ready to do your divine will. From February 14, 1985 until January 10, 2013, I was in mission in Taiwan. I spent my youth with joy and zeal, and now I am before you with trembling hands and knees, the cartilage is consumed; but I have no regrets because, in the work of obedience, I have seen the fruit of this mission, including the works of love for you and for the Congregation. I surrender and entrust myself to your Divine Providence. I have experienced that you truly work with me and in me.*

Thank you for having used me as your instrument for the Alberione House and for the Congregation”.

Recently she wrote to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato: *“Congratulations and thanks be to God that you are still our Mother General...when I write my right hand becomes stiff...during this time I cannot remain standing for long...It is only a small offering that I welcome with joy. I do not wish to be a burden for the sisters” (undated).*

Since 2013 she was at the Alberione Oasis House of Prayer in Antipolo, fulfilling various tasks as her strength permitted. In April of 2015 she was transferred to the apostolic community of Manila to assist in the Liturgical Apostolate Center by answering the telephone and renewing her contact with the benefactors. She was content to remain in this community where she could organize herself according to her ability. The superior of the community and the other sisters testify to her joyous presence and her ability to relate to others.

It was in this house that the Lord came to “visit” to bring her with himself in the heart of the night. Toward midnight she experienced alarming symptoms and was rushed to the nearest hospital. The immediate cause of death was a heart attack.

The Provincial Superior and the other sisters of the community were nearby and accompanied her last hours on earth with much prayer, asking for the intercession of Blessed Alberione and our other Pauline saints.

The Philippines/Taiwan/Hong Kong Province has begun its celebration of the 60th anniversary of foundation (1956-2016) with this sign of the completion of the life of Sr. M. Joseph. We receive this in the maturity of faith, believing that she may be a sign of a “mature fruit” of joy and missionary generosity. Let us invoke her intercession for the Philippines/Taiwan/Hong Kong Province and for the entire Congregation, that we may welcome new vocations everywhere as a gift of God in this time.

Sr. M. Joseph, live in God and rest in peace!

S. H. Paolo Mancini