



Dear Sisters,

Today, June 5, 2014, at 5:45 AM (local time), at Blackrock Clinic in Dublin (Ireland), the Lord called to the eternal wedding feast our sister,

**Sr. M. Paul O'Brien – Helene Marie,
born in Dublin (Ireland) on August 14, 1935.**

At the first light of dawn on the day in which the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, our sister concluded her earthly pilgrimage, entering definitively into that ocean of peace that is the relationship of love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Marie Helene entered the Congregation in Rome on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at a time when the Sister Disciples were not yet present in Ireland. She was introduced by Sr. Muriel, who had spoken to her about the importance of the Eucharistic Adoration for the salvation of the world and about evangelization through art. It was December 8, 1957. Before her entrance she was engaged in sports, in which she won five silver medals! Within herself, there were two competing attractions: sports and the Eucharistic presence of Jesus Master, who ultimately prevailed. Thus, on March 24, 1959, she entered the novitiate, and the following year made her first religious profession in Rome. At the conclusion of the Juniorate she made her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1965.

Following her stay in Italy, in 1965 she was sent to the Society of St. Paul in London for the priestly apostolate and the preparation of a vocational exhibit. After some months, however, she was sent to Ireland, her native country, where she acquired the first house for the Irish Delegation. In 1966 she left for the United States, where she remained until 1978, in various ministries and in search of benefactors. She then returned to Ireland, this time to Athlone.

Sr. M. Paul is the second Irish Sister Disciple. She had a special gift for art and the capacity to relate with persons which was promising for apostolic creativity, the fostering of the Friends of the Divine Master, and the pastoral work for vocations. She dedicated herself to painting and sculpture for the development of the mission and, with an unmistakable style, she beautified the House in which God meets his people and helped the faithful to pray in beauty.

A joyous, witty, and free spirit, she was capable of a deep interior life which she lived and communicated with great originality. At times, the characteristics of her personality did not facilitate her relationships with some of the sisters within the community, while she could be very pleasant with other persons. Honest with herself and others, she was also capable of recognizing and admitting her limitations and mistakes.

The sisters from Ireland recalled her in this manner: *“In her life, Sr. Paul was greatly loved and appreciated. She showed herself to be a unique and exceptional person who went outside of herself: a woman who you could not forget once you met her. God filled her with gifts, and formed her directly with his hands. She loved God, the Congregation, her own family, her friends. She demonstrated a profound sensitivity for those who were suffering or emarginated, seeking to reconcile and bring peace to situations of conflict. She knew how to listen, hold things in her heart, and transform everything in prayer. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a sharp intelligence that lead her to cultivate an ongoing formation, spiritual growth, and to learn continually. In the last years her prayer became her life and, following the diagnosis of liver cancer that lead to her death within six months, her prayer became a continual intercession, living to the depths her vocation as a Sister Disciple. Especially in this final and intense suffering, Sr. M. Paul experienced the love and nearness of many people. We will miss her. We believe that she continues to intercede for us from heaven. May she rest in peace.”*

We entrust our dear sister to the tenderness of God. Always aware that the gift she received in her vocation, she fought within herself the good fight of faith, of hope, and of charity. In her life, often tried in many ways, she knew the profound joy of the Lord's presence, which she passionately sought. May he welcome Sr. M. Paul into the Trinitarian life forever and ever.

Sr. L. Regina Casereto