



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, March 24, at 8:10 PM (local time), at the San Agustín Hospital in Mexico City (Mexico), the Divine Master called to eternity

**SR. M. CIRA – GENOVEVA ESPINOZA ALCÁNTAR  
born on May 5, 1940, in Hacienda de la Calle- Guanajuato (México).**

Genoveva entered the Congregation on March 11, 1960, in the Divine Master community in Mexico, bringing with her the gift of a profoundly Christian formation, rich in human values and in faith that she received in the family where, together with 12 brothers and sisters, she grew in the spirit of fraternity.

After the novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1963, in Mexico, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1968, also in Mexico. From the beginning of her consecrated life, she distinguished herself for her joy, sense of humor and generosity in the Eucharistic, Priestly and Liturgical mission.

In the presentation for the various stages of the consecrated life, these particular traits emerged: *«Good character, open, loyal, generous; outgoing, intelligent, dedicated in everything, serene and docile, responsible, fulfills her duties well and offers herself generously. She prays well; she makes an effort to progress in virtue; she understands our spirit well, and loves the Congregation»*. In her request for admission to perpetual vows, she wrote: *«I express my deep longing to belong to the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master and to persevere in my vocation»* (January 24, 1968).

After profession, she spent some time in Mexico City in tailoring, and in 1964 she offered her service at the Saint Paul House. In 1966 she went to the sewing workroom in the DM community in Guadalajara and returned to Mexico City in 1967. In 1969 she returned to the workroom in Guadalajara, and from 1972 at the Saint Paul House, where she also served as local superior (1975-1978). She then fulfilled this same ministry in other communities: after a period of time in Guadalajara at the Alberione House, where she demonstrated a particular care for priests, she was in Monterrey (1985-1988), and in Mexico City (1990-1996). She collaborated in the governance of the Circumscription as regional councilor in 1982 and then in 1990. She also held other positions of responsibility as councilor or local treasurer, and she would spend one year in Rome (1988 to 1989).

Gifted with a harmonious voice, she contributed to the beauty of the liturgy, animating the singing and playing the organ, thus glorifying the Divine Master. She was characterized by a great spirit of service and dedication. She was sought after for her talent in embroidery. Fraternal charity, of which she was filled, rendered her attentive to the sisters and, also in her apostolic service, she was committed to fulfilling the expectations of the priests and seminarians. The Mexican sisters remember her as: a dear sister respected by all for her simplicity and coherence of life. Despite her infirmity, she did not distance herself from the community life and serving with generosity, offering her life on a daily basis.

Since 2000 she began to have various health issues which she learned to accept with patience and serenity, without losing her smile. With the manifestation of more serious health problems, she wrote to Sr M. Regina Cesarato, the Superior General at that time: *«Aside from the age, I am seriously thinking about my encounter with God, when and how this will take place, only that when the moment comes I ask him for the grace to be able to enter with the lamp burning»* (undated). Some months ago she was diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer that was already too advanced to consider a surgical intervention. Pulmonary and cardiac complications then led to her death. She died at 8:10 PM in the Hospital of San Agustín in Mexico City, where she was hospitalized. She experienced her earthly Passover on the vigil of her 56th anniversary of religious consecration, the day on which the entire Congregation recalls the birth into heaven of Mother Scholastica. Sr. M. Cira went to meet the Lord of her life with great awareness and peace, accompanied by the prayer of the Church which, in the First Vespers of the Annunciation of the Lord, contemplates the willingness of Mary of Nazareth to accept God's plan. Accompanied by the prayer and presence of the sisters, she went to meet the Bridegroom in serenity and surrender to him, supplied with the oil of trust, that the light of love might burn brightly: *Behold, Lord, I come to do your will, like Mary!*

Intercede for us with God for the journey of holiness and in the apostolic spirit of all the members of the Pauline Family in Mexico, and for new vocations in America!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*