



Dear Sisters,

Today, April 29, 2020, at 4:44 AM, early in the morning while it was still dark, in the DM Community of Cordoba (MI), at the RSA “Pueblo Sabio”, the Lord Jesus found his disciple and our sister ready for the eternal Passover

SR. M. BERNARDA - JOLANDA BARRERA
born on May 29, 1930 in La Higuera – Cordoba (Argentina).

On February 13, 1957, Jolanda left her family to enter the community of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Cordoba, where the formation community is located. She was almost 27 years of age and the second of seven children.

On November 20 1958, she entered the novitiate in Cordoba and the following year, on November 21, 1959, she made her religious profession together with six other novices. On March 25, 1965, she made her perpetual profession, always in Cordoba.

During these years of initial formation in the religious life of the Sister Disciples, she was able to benefit from the presence and the guidance of Mother Scholastica Rivata in the Delegation of Argentina, as superior and the sister responsible for the development of the apostolate, who encouraged her to broaden her heart to congregational and international horizons, according to the spirit of Saint Paul and of Mary, Queen of the Apostles.

Sr. M. Bernarda showed herself to be a practical woman who faced the day with simplicity and care. She loved the adoration and dedicated herself passionately to the priestly service at the community of the Society of Saint Paul in Florida and in Cordoba, where she returned various times. She was an excellent tailoress. She also dedicated herself in the sewing workshop and the various services in the community: as cook and doorkeeper; and in various cities: Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata.

The sisters of the Delegation of Argentina remember her this way: “We can say that Sr. M. Bernarda was a vocation from the beginning of the Congregation in Argentina. She was a person of silence, much prayer and interior life. She had a great love for the priestly apostolate, especially the Pauline seminarians. She communicated with her profound and expressive gaze rather than with words. In the final stage of her life she embraced her infirmity, accepting the will of God and the care of the sisters. Sr. M. Bernarda was amiable, delicate; she never lamented nor accused anyone, she was a good companion. Her kindness and amiability made her distinct and beautiful. Through her behavior transpired the heart of a consecrated women, a woman of contemplation and of prudence”.

Due to declining health, she was transferred to the Mother Scholastica Community in Cordoba, where an infirmary had been prepared to welcome the infirm sisters of the Delegation. Here she received care and she was able to dedicate more time to prayer, living her suffering with apostolic motivations. Grateful for the care she received, for the medications as well as for a simple glass of water, she habitually greeted all with a big smile. The progressive decline of her energies forced

her to be bedridden and this morning, following a heart attack, she left us serenely like a candle that is consumed, arriving at the fulfillment of her final Passover.

Thank you, Sr. M. Bernarda: continue your intercession as a disciple in the eternal dwelling and pray for the Delegation of Argentina and for all of humanity in this difficult time of pandemic. May it give rise to a new world that is more human and fraternal.

We will carry you in our hearts.

Sr. M. Micaela Bonetti'