



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, May 31, 2020, at 2:00 PM (local time) in our DM community of Santiago, our sister completed her Paschal journey on earth

**SR. M. LOURDES - M. ISABEL GONZÁLEZ VALENZUELA
born on October 4, 1942 at Coronel (Concepción) Chile.**

M. Isabel came from a profoundly Christian family: she was the second of seven children, the only daughter with six brothers. In the family, she received assistance in growing in the faith. She was also well inserted within the life of the parish, to the extent that it was the Pastor himself who accompanied her to the Congregation in Santiago on August 4, 1961. The Sister Disciples had arrived in Chile in 1957, and zealous and courageous vocationists went from parish to parish to make our specific form of consecrated life known. M. Isabel met them at a Sunday Mass in her parish, despite the fact that they were located in an area far from our first Chilean community.

She completed her initial formation in Argentina, where she made her first profession in Cordoba on March 25, 1965. The formator, Sr. M. Bruna Rizzo, presented her as a good candidate, attentive and sensitive, loving the Congregation. She demonstrates a good religious spirit, loves piety, the adoration, fulfills her duties quickly and responsibly: works in tailoring. She is sociable. She made her perpetual profession in Santiago, Chile, on June 29, 1972. Following religious profession, she spent a period of time in Buenos Aires, in the tailoring workshop, an apostolate that she would continue upon her return to Santiago, Chile, within the same year. She fulfilled this ministry with care, intelligence, and obvious dedication. She was greatly appreciated for the care and precision she used in her work. She would continue in this apostolate for 25 years. During the year in which she celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary of profession, 1990-1991, she was in the General House in Rome and attended the Urbaniana Pontifical University for an academic year of Missionary Spirituality.

Upon her return to Chile, she was sent to the house for priests belonging to the Diocese of Concepcion: within the office building of the chancery there was also a mini liturgical apostolate center. Her service thus included both apostolic expressions in which she shared with the sisters. For various terms, Sr. M. Lourdes served as local or delegation councilor, or as local superior in the house for priests at Concepcion. In 2012 she was transferred to Santiago with responsibility for the Liturgical Apostolate. In 2015 she was sent to offer her service at the center for souvenirs at Saint Peter's in the Vatican; a ministry she fulfilled for three years. She returned to Chile in 2018, where she worked primarily in tailoring.

The love expressed by Sr. M. Lourdes was not only in words; hers was a sacrificial love concretized by spending herself, principally through her attention to the persons.

The apostolic aspect, in fact, emerged more clearly in those services that involved relationships: in the activity of the Liturgical Apostolate, the care and attention to priests, as well as the community.

The sisters from Chile wrote: *«We, the sisters of the Delegation of Chile, have known Sr. M. Lourdes closely. We appreciate and bear witness to her closeness and attention in every need of the community. She had a great deal of sensitivity and care also in the smallest things for us. We shared many fraternal moments with her to create a fraternal atmosphere and she expressed clearly the will to nurture within herself sentiments and attitudes of forgiveness and transparency. Sr. M. Lourdes distinguished herself by her sociability, her nearness to the priests, and the persons she met in the fulfillment of her mission. We greatly appreciate her readiness to be with Jesus early in the morning, in prayerful silence, thus preparing herself for loving participation in the Eucharist and daily adoration, to which she was most faithful, and which represents her strength and motivation as a disciple. We quote a phrase from her writings: Place Christ at the center of life: He will make us go out of ourselves; he decentralizes us and opens us to others».*

The sister was at the Don Alberione House in Concepcion until the middle of April of this year, at which time she was transferred to the Divine Master community in Santiago for health reasons. A general organic and psychic decline, together with hypertension, required specialized care for her situation. Though tried in health, she completed a journey of reconciliation and self donation that enabled her to have a clearer interior orientation toward those things that are essential in the Christian life.

Almost unexpectedly, she came to the fulfillment of her earthly pilgrimage because of a heart attack. The sisters responsibly cared for the health of Sr. M. Lourdes through their closeness and support, and they were with her at the time of her departure for eternal life. She is the first Chilean sister to go to our eternal homeland.

Let us recall what Sr. M. Lourdes wrote in 2015, on the occasion of her 50th anniversary of religious life: *«How can I not give thanks to God, through his Blessed Mother, the Queen of Apostles, for giving me life, for he has fixed his gaze upon me; he has called and guided me and protected me throughout my life, making me feel more loved by Him each day! Looking back I can acknowledge with great peace and gratitude all that I have learned. I appreciate the greatness and beauty of the mission of the Sister Disciple, asking God to enlighten me to fulfill my vocation and mission well as a member of this religious family, founded by a great man of our Church, Blessed James Alberione».* For this occasion she wrote to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General at that time: *«I give thanks to God who has called me, loved me, and invited me to follow him each day, and I trust that I will be able to respond with love and fidelity until he calls me to receive the crown» (March 23, 2015).*

In this beautiful and solemn day of Pentecost, the Divine Master has decided to place on her head the crown of the faithful virgin! We now entrust to her the task of interceding before the Heavenly Father for the gift of new vocations for the entire Pauline Family in Chile and Latin America, and for their perseverance!

S. H. Paolo Mancini