



Dear Sisters,

On September 19, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in the “Enrique Cabrera” Hospital of Mexico City (Mexico), Jesus, our Master and Lord, called to himself definitively his disciple and our sister

SR. M. EVELINA – YOLANDA ARENAS RIVERA
born on January 3, 1948 in Urireo, Guanajuato (Mexico).

Her parents received from the Lord the birth of Yolanda, the fourth of twelve children and, on February 15 she was brought to the baptismal font to become a member of the family of God and to become a Christian. It is upon this baptism that her religious vocation as a Sister Disciple was rooted and developed over the years.

On August 25, 1963 she responded to the call of the Divine Master and entered into the religious community of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Mexico City. The following year her younger sister, Olga, followed her example and became a Sister Disciple, receiving the name of Sr. M. Yolanda.

Upon completion of the novitiate, Yolanda made her first religious profession on March 25, 1967, in Mexico City, and in her native city she was perpetually consecrated to God on April 8, 1973, surrounded by her loved ones and the parish community.

The major part of her apostolic life was spent at the service of priests, for whom she cared with the spirit and following the example of Mary Most Holy, according to the teaching of Blessed James Alberione who exhorted us: “live beside the priests just as Mary, his mother, lived beside Jesus”.

From 1989 to 1996, she offered her service as a professional nurse at the "Regina Apostolorum" Hospital in Albano Laziale (Rome) in the department designated for the care of sick priests. When it was deemed necessary for her to return to her country of origin due to serious heart problems, her dedication and attention to the needs of priests was not diminished.

A strong and energetic woman, she could instill confidence and a desire to live in all those entrusted to her care. She dedicated herself to their care without reserving her energy, placing the needs of those who were more frail before her own health or needs. She drew the resources for this solicitious dedication from the daily Eucharistic Celebration and Adoration: from the Bread of Life celebrated, adored and shared which regenerated her energies for daily service.

In 1997 she left for Cordoba (Argentina) as a nurse at the "Don Alberione" House for Priests where sick and elderly diocesan priests received hospitality and care. She remained there until 2014. This ministry was interrupted for a year to allow her to participate in the Charism Course of the Pauline Family in 2006. She then returned definitively to the Province of Mexico.

The sisters of the Province bear witness to her: *Today we desire to thank the Lord for our Sister M. Evelina, who spent a major part of her life caring for sick and elderly priests, characterized by her*

fervent, loving and efficacious dedication at the service of life in the various nations in which she served as a missionary and expert nurse.

Upon her return from Argentina, she placed her nursing skills at the service of priests at the Casa Damasco, then in the Formation Community of Saint Paul in Guadalajara. She also had the blessing to offer the necessary care to her mother in her old age and illness. Lately she offered her nursing services to the sick and elderly sisters in our community of Mexico City.

She was a generous and dedicated person: in the seminary she never measured her work and did everything joyfully. She taught us that we should not deny a favor to anyone.

Her complex cardiac weakness left her exposed to the current pandemic of Covid. Presenting with the symptoms of Covid a few days ago, she was hospitalized for evaluation and the necessary treatment. She had always reassured everyone that the situation would resolve favorably. Unfortunately, respiratory complications set in which led to cardiac arrest.

The Mexican sisters, already mourning the death of Sr. M. Gracia, which took place a few days ago, are now called to face another final farewell in the distance imposed by the situation of the contagion.

While prayer and the Christian faith in the resurrection are certainly not lacking, these sudden departures remind us of the importance of expressing our affection and fraternity while there is still time; to say what we need to say to one another, taking our leave peacefully each day.

Thank you, Sr. M. Evelina, may Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life, receive you together with Mary, our Mother, Teacher and Queen of the Apostles, to enjoy eternally the reward he has prepared for you. Now also your family, and especially Sr. M. Yolanda, can count on your gaze from Heaven!

Sr. M. Michaela Honeth'