



Dear Sisters,

During the night of April 28, 2021, in the hospital of San Ignacio in Bogotá (Colombia) the Lord Jesus, as the Bridegroom, went to meet our sister

SR. M. CARLINA – IMELDA CADAVID VELÁSQUEZ
born on December 9, 1938, in San José de la Montaña, Antioquia (Colombia).

She entered the Congregation on September 20, 1960, little more than twenty years of age. After the regular formation program at the Divine Master community in Bogotá, she made her first profession on March 25, 1963, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1968.

Given her artistic talents, she was sent to study painting and attended the Facoltà di Arte e decorazione at the Università *Javeriana* in the Capital.

Sr. M. Carlina is remembered as a delicate sister who directed this artistic personality trait to design and painting, with a particular care for detail.

To the artistic hands of Sr. M. Carlina, – or Carlinita, as the sisters of her community loved to call her, because of her small stature – were entrusted the construction projects for the houses of the Province of Colombia/Ecuador and especially the chapels of numerous religious institutes.

Delicate and responsible in following each project, in all of its stages until the final completion, she did not spare herself in the face of struggles and unforeseen events, dealing even with the local authorities with diligence and dedication. The spaces, the colors, the functionality of the surroundings bear witness to her fine and exquisite touch. Her objective was to help the people of God to pray in beauty.

Under her direction, the artistic creativity of the Liturgical Apostolate in the Province was developed also in the area of designs for embroidery, in the greeting cards for Christmas and anniversaries of consecration, in the decoration of the altar and the liturgical vestments: she was attentive to every aspect; the attention to detail and the harmony gave additional value to everything that issued from her hands. The sisters bear witness that she made ordinary work extraordinary by the finish, the cleanliness with which she brought each work to completion, and the refined color combinations, applying herself with a care, almost maniacal, in every line of embroidery or of design: by these characteristics it was possible to perceive the clarity and the profundity of the message she desired to transmit. She created, imagined and produced

with the intent of rendering the art "sacred" as a way of elevating the human soul and leading it to the divine. For Sr. M. Carlina, art, design, imagination, color, music, everything is placed at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus, Beauty that saves the world.

She loved music and singing and enhanced the community prayer by playing the zither with a sweet harmony.

The sister spent her consecrated life in the various communities of the Province of Colombia/Ecuador always available for service, especially with the objective of educating the communities and the people faithful to God about beauty.

In 1979 she also fulfilled her service as regional councilor with the responsibility for development in the liturgical-artistic mission.

Friendly by nature, in the fraternal life she was capable of preserving harmony in serenity; a peacemaker in situations of conflict, she loved to repeat: "I would rather have peace than be right". The source of this peace for Sr. M. Carlina is to be sought in listening to the Word of God, following the example of Mary, disciple of the Holy Spirit and Queen of Apostles, who preserved everything, meditating upon it in her heart. She was a disciple of the Divine Master who developed the contemplative dimension of her life. Thus there was formed in her the art of detail, the care for the little things, those few that count, characterizing herself by her delicate, serene and peaceful style.

Let us give thanks to God for having given her to us as a sister and as a companion on the journey, in health and in the sickness, which made her journey a painful one, especially in the last years. For some time she suffered from pulmonary fibrosis which gradually weakened her to the point of provoking the heart disease that caused her death.

According to the evangelical narrative of the virgins who go out in the night to meet the Bridegroom, in response to the festive shout: "Behold, the bridegroom!", Sr. M. Carlina was vigilant. She rose and, with the lamp of her life burning, she was introduced into the Wedding Feast, since she was found prepared (Mt 25:1-13).

To her, who now sees our reality in the light of God, we entrust the sisters of the Province of Colombia/Ecuador who are in the process of discernment for the constitution of the new government, that all may receive wisdom and hope.

Sr. M. Michaela Monetti