



Dear Sisters,

On April 6, 2022, at 6:50 PM, in the Divine Master Community of Mexico City (Mexico) our sister went to the heavenly homeland

SR. M. LAURA – MERCEDES MARTÍN GUTIÉRREZ
born on September 24, 1936 in Cerrito Colorado, Jalisco.

Brought to the baptismal font in the Parish of Capilla de Guadalupe on the day of her birth, she received the name Maria Mercedes. She was the fourth of eight children: five boys and three girls. Coming from an industrious and honest family, she heard the call to religious life at an early age. Assisted by her aunt, Juanita, and a cousin who lived near the community of the Sister Disciples in Mexico City, she entered the Congregation on January 8, 1962, overcoming the resistance of her parents, especially that of her father who was unwilling to accept this choice of life that was so different from that of his other daughters.

Having completed the novitiate, on March 25, 1964, she made her religious profession in Mexico City; she made her perpetual profession in the same community on March 25, 1969. From the beginning of her religious life she was characterized by her generous dedication to the apostolate. Immediately after profession she was sent to the communities of the Society of St. Paul in Mexico City and Guadalajara, from 1964 until 1969. Dedication on a daily basis to the care and formation of the young Paulines, and of the priests and brothers, was a peaceful and edifying experience. She wrote that she was very happy and content: “For me, this was a great mission, to place myself at the service of priestly vocations. There was a great deal of work and very few means, but we worked with great joy”. She was then asked to go to Boston (USA). With the obedience of a missionary, she left her own Nation and collaborated generously in the Liturgical Apostolate Center from 1969 until 1972.

Upon her return to Mexico, she continued to work in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers of Mexico City and Guadalajara from 1972 until 1981 with the same zeal. During a three-year term from 1994-1996, she placed her human and religious talents in her service as the superior of the community in Guadalajara. Then, from 1981 until 2013 she collaborated in the sewing workrooms in the communities of Madre Tecla in

Guadalajara and B. Timoteo Giaccardo in Aguascalientes. She repeated constantly: "What makes me happy is the dedication, knowing that I am totally consecrated to God". She always fostered this dedication through daily, confident prayer, in the Eucharistic Celebration and in the Adoration, from which springs, for everyone, the energy and the meaning of every form of apostolic service.

She was a happy and serene person who was capable of restoring peace from the tensions of living together: she always sought a balance in the midst of conflict; she had a great esteem for the sisters with whom she lived her consecrated life; she also had a profound sense of gratitude to the Congregation for all that she received during her life. She is remembered as a sister who was always available and working, attentive to the needs of the sisters and to the others.

In 2010 she manifested evident signs of Alzheimer's Disease, which progressively worsened. Therefore, in 2013, she was transferred to the Divine Master Community in Mexico City to receive medical and specialized geriatric care. Despite this, the disease continued to worsen and, on March 19, 2015, there began for her a period of total immobility. The sisters of the community, especially Sr. Maria Abigail Arias, cared for her day and night with absolute attention and dedication.

Later there other complications that rendered her clinical picture more dire with chronic respiratory insufficiency.

Thus, after a long pilgrimage, comforted by the charity and the prayer of the community, Sr. M. Laura completed her definitive encounter with Jesus Master, dying peacefully as befits one who spent her life in silence: a life entirely devoted to the mission at the service of the Eucharist, of the Priesthood and of the Liturgy.

Sr. M. Laura, purified by suffering like gold in the crucible, may you be a presence of blessing and of intercession for the Province of Mexico, for the new generations of Sister Disciples and for the journey of all toward the 10th General Chapter.

Sr. M. Michaela Haneth