



Dear Sisters,

On October 28, 2022, at 12:32 P.M., from the Divine Master Community in Davao City (Philippines), Jesus Master called to the eternal wedding feast our sister

**SR. M. GRACIA– GRACIA MAG-UYON
born on April 3, 1952, in Dimiao, Bohol (Philippines).**

The fourth of eight children, Gracia was brought to the baptismal font on Sunday, May 4, 1952. Leaving behind the green hills of Bohol, at thirty-three years of age she presented herself for admission among the candidates to the consecrated life: with a diploma in accounting, she was working in a supermarket, but was drawn by the beautiful vocation of intercessory prayer for the entire world. Her acceptance was not an easy one, since she was beyond the age established in the Constitutions. She was advised to join the Institute of Our Lady of the Annunciation, but in the meantime, she never stopped going to the chapel of our community for the adoration. Knowing that the Superior General, Mother M. Tecla Molino, was making her fraternal visit to the Philippines, she asked and obtained permission to meet her personally and to present her desire for consecration among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. Thus, she received the dispensation from the age requirement to undertake the formative journey, and entered the Congregation in Antipolo, where she completed the first years of her formation in the religious life. At the conclusion of the novitiate, she made her religious profession on December 30, 1989 in Antipolo, and her perpetual profession on December 29, 1995, also in Antipolo.

During the period of temporary vows, she was dedicated to collaborating in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers in Davao and in Manila. Enhancing her artistic inclination, she obtained a diploma from the San Carlo University in Cebu in *Interior Design*. Writing to Mother M. Paola Mancini, the Superior General at that time, she expressed her gratitude for the confidence entrusted to her and the joy of having reached the threshold that would offer her the possibility to assist the people of God to pray in beauty: *“I am happy and inspired in the creation of that which fosters the beauty and dignity of the celebration of the mystery of God; I am happy to serve the Lord in this mission”*.

Upon completion of her studies, she put her knowledge into practice for the mission. She fostered the work of local artists, utilizing native and indigenous materials and often creating original tabernacles. The beautiful productions she designed and realized in the carpenter shop of Davao are the proof.

The sisters remember her as a responsible and creative person, gifted also with musical talent. From the first years of her formation, she brought to completion the tasks entrusted to her with artistic taste and precision. In her mind and heart she always had the mission of the Congregation, especially the decor of the church, the house of God. This sense of responsibility and creativity accompanied her throughout her life and she brought it with her in her various assigned ministries.

She is a sister also noted for her simplicity, which allowed others to approach her. She had a singularity of intention and desire: to be and live always with and for the Lord, everywhere to give glory to the Lord with her life. It is a simplicity that allowed her to give the best and everything, ready to serve and to help, willing to take a step back and to sacrifice herself, often in silence, entrusting everything to the Lord. It is a delicate simplicity that enabled her to perceive the traces of beauty in the little things, even in those that seemed to be useless, and transform them into an original creation for the celebration of the Mysteries of God.

At various times she also assumed the responsibility of coordinating the communities as local superior: in Cebu (2006 – 2009), in Antipolo (2015 -2018) and finally in Davao.

Sr. M. Leticia Bantolinao, her companion in the novitiate, recounts: “*The last time I was with her was Christmas of last year. She spoke to me about her desire and commitment to age gracefully*”. The sisters of her community testify that, in the last days, she often shared with them her desire to leave, almost foreseeing that she would have to respond to a sudden call.

In 2012 she designed the beautiful chapel of the Divine Master in Davao City and followed its execution in the details. It is here that, through God’s mysterious design, she spent her last hours upon the earth. She was there when she received her final call from Jesus Master: “*Come, my bride. Come good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord!*”. And, due to cardiac arrest, she ended her earthly pilgrimage.

Thank you, Sr. M. Gracia, for your beautiful witness of love and of service, of simplicity, of beauty. Celebrate with joy the Solemnity of Jesus Master with the entire Pauline Family in heaven, and rejoice in the total contemplation of His eternal glory.

Sr. M. Michaela Manethi