



*Dear Sisters,*

On February 27, 2023, at 8:00 AM, local time, in the Clinic of Sant' Ignazio in Bogotá (Colombia), our sister concluded her earthly pilgrimage

**SR. M. ANGELA - BENIGNA ROBLES CONTRERAS**  
**born on November 5, 1937 in Arcabuco, Boyacá (Colombia).**

Benigna received the gift of Baptism on May 8, 1938. She was brought to the baptismal font by her parents, Pedro Antonio Robles and María del Carmen Contreras, thereby becoming a daughter of God and a member of the Church.

Upon arrival in Colombia on May 17, 1955, our missionary sisters worked to explore the territory and, fearlessly, they also went to the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes in the state of Boyacá, a little more than 100 Km from Bogotá. In fact, the first vocations came from this area, among them was Benigna. A great miracle is renewed when a charism, coming from a distant place, meets the sensibility of the youth of the Nation to which it is called to share the gift of the grace received. Thus, the young Benigna entered the Congregation on June 20, 1957, at the age of twenty, in Bogotá, barely two years after the arrival of our first sisters. Here she completed her initial formation and made the first profession on May 31, 1961. She would make her perpetual profession, together with two other sisters, on May 31, 1966.

The sisters of the Province of Colombia-Ecuador are grateful to the Lord for the witness of the first sisters, and they wrote: «*Sr. M. Angela is one of the first sisters. They are the pillars of our Province and, along the years, they built with constancy, resistance and the generous offering of themselves. Sr. M. Angela gives honor to her family name, Robles, which indicates fortitude in every trial. The words of St. Paul: "I can do all things in the one who gives me strength", always accompanied the journey of discipleship of Sr. M. Angela.*». After the profession, Sr. M. Angela generously began her apostolic mission as a collaborator in the Liturgical Apostolate Center, first in Bogotá and then in Pereira. From 1971 to 1976 she was at the Society of St. Paul, working in the distribution office, which aroused a great deal of confidence from the Pauline brothers. At various times she was directly involved in the youth and vocational ministry in which she bore witness and communicated her love for the person of Jesus Master and the joy in her vocation. In 1976 she was appointed Regional Treasurer. Her service in accounting was precious for the financial organization of the Province, both in Colombia and in Ecuador, thanks to the specific preparation she had received in the family. From 1988 until 2015, she was in Ecuador, giving her support in the Liturgical Apostolate

Center and in various services. She was very grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to carry out her mission in that Nation and she perceived it as a blessing. Already in 1994, she wrote to Madre M. Lucia Ricci: *«I ask for a remembrance in your prayers for us that we may offer ourselves generously each day to the Lord who loves us a great deal and that we may soon have vocations from Ecuador»*. As a missionary in Ecuador, she demonstrated a special ability of adapting to a different culture. Little by little she entered into the Ecuadorian culture until she was able to say: *Ecuador of my soul!* The human traits of her character, her simplicity, allowed her to understand and love persons of all ages: the young, adults, elderly.

She returned to Colombia, Bogotá DM, in 2015 for health reasons, where she offered her services at the internal Center and as Local Treasurer. For a number of years, she suffered with lung cancer, which never stopped her activity, her apostolic spirit. She wrote (April 23, 2017) to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General at that time: *«First of all, I want to thank you for your note, prayer for my health. Thank you, I do not know how to repay you, only the Lord will reward you for everything. All of the sisters are very close to me and I must thank the Divine Master for his infinite mercy. At this moment, I feel well and desire to collaborate, with all my energy, with generosity in the work to be done... for me, work has always been a blessing for which I thank God. I think of work as rest, a grace, a joy. My parents taught me from an early age to love work»*.

Sr. M. Angela may be considered an example for the infirm sisters on how to face and live in peace with illness. The intense prayer life, the awareness of being loved by Jesus Master made her serene in the preparation for the final encounter with God. She lived in a spirit of offering for Priests, especially Pauline Priests, in gratitude to the Congregation and with the desire for all: *“Ser fieles al Señor él nos ama mucho”* – Be faithful to the Lord. He loves us greatly!

Especially in the last years, the life of Sr. M. Angela reflects the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, in his passage through the passion and death to enlighten our lives and all of history through his Resurrection. After a long period of suffering, Sr. M. Angela has entered into the eternal Passover. We are confident that, from Heaven, she continues to obtain blessings for the Province of Colombia-Ecuador and for all of America, interceding especially for vocations and their perseverance.

*S. H. Paolo Haucaim*