



Dear Sisters,

Today, August 2, 2023, in our community of Antipolo, at 4:50 AM (local time), Jesus Master definitively called to himself our sister

**Sr. M. Scholastica - Florencia Malate G.
born on February 23, 1936 in Jaro, Leyte – Philippines.**

The birth of Florencia completed the nuclear family of the father, Francisco Malate, mother, Juliana Garrido, two brothers and four older sisters. On April 18 she received the sacrament of Baptism in the Diocese of Palo (Philippines).

On May 1, 1958, at the age of 22, she entered the community of the Sister Disciples in Pasay City. After completing the various stages of initial formation, and following the regular novitiate, she was the first from the Philippines to make her religious profession on March 25, 1961 in Pasay City and joyfully receive the name of Maria Scolastica. On March 25, 1966, in Antipolo, she offered her “yes” for her entire life.

Following religious profession, she remained for a time in the community of Antipolo as an assistant to the pre-postulants and, from 1964, she would be dedicated to the various expressions of the mission: in priestly service, in the Liturgical Apostolate centers, in the embroidery workroom, as portress, in various places: Antipolo, Makati, Manila, Cebu, Davao Quezon City. From 2016, although she was in the infirmary at Antipolo, she continued to be active in the production of small objects.

For the 25th anniversary of profession, she had the joy of the fulfillment of a dream to go to Italy to visit the places of the Founder, Fr. Alberione, and of our roots and to encounter sisters coming from various nations to raise together the song of praise to the Divine Master for our vocation as Sister Disciples.

When, for the occasion of her 60th anniversary of profession she was asked to give a testimony, she wrote:

«My desire, my dream has always been to enter a convent and to be a religious sisters, to dedicate my entire life to the service of God, to serve the people, the brothers and sisters. It was he, the Lord, who guided me to the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, where he knew I would be fine.

The Word of God that has accompanied me constantly on my journey is: "Come, follow me, deny yourself and take up your cross".

The words that Blessed Alberione spoke to the first Sister Disciples, “Silence, silence, Silence”, I have always conserved in my heart and in my mind, continually meditating upon them.

The great teachings on the love of God and his faithfulness help me to persevere each day and in the moments of darkness. He gives me strength and courage. This is also the source of my joy: the certainty that God loves me and that he will reward me with eternal life in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary».

Let us entrust our sister, Sister M. Scholastica, to the mercy of the Lord Jesus, invoking her intercession for the Province of the Philippines – Taiwan – Hong Kong and for the entire Congregation journeying toward the implementation of the 10th General Chapter, so that we too might bring the oil that heals and perfumes, soothes injuries and restores beauty and dignity.

S. M. Joseph DeBerto