



Dear Sisters,

On December 5, 2023, at 7:55 AM in the DM community of Mexico City, the Lord Jesus definitively called to himself our sister,

**SR. M. LUCÍA – MARIA CARMEN PANIAGUA ASANZA
born on April 16, 1940, in Irámuco Guanajuato (Mexico).**

In her parish of birth, San Jerónimo, on Sunday April 21 of the same year, the little Maria Carmen received Baptism. She is the sixth of 12 children (7 girls and 5 boys).

On October 24, 1956, she entered the Congregation in the Divine Master community of Mexico City. She herself recounted the experience that marked her so deeply: *«My first impression of those living in that house was beautiful. I still remember it with affection and emotion, everyone there was waiting for us. There were nine young women making up the first group: they greeted us and welcomed us with great affection, so much so that they applauded us upon our arrival. It was a great shock because they always told us what they were doing, I felt as if I had always lived there. It was a setting in which we breathed a family spirit and profound joy. Now, reading about this experience, I think it was the grace of the beginnings that made me feel this way; I felt at home».*

Sr. M. Lucía was a member of the first canonically erected novitiate in Mexico and she is one of the first eight Mexican Sister Disciples. Upon completion of the novitiate, on January 6, 1960, she made her religious profession and on the same date in 1965 she made her perpetual profession in Mexico City. While she remained in the same DM community, she obtained her diploma in Sacred Music, and then continued to collaborate in the workroom for embroidery and goldsmithing. Then, in 1971-1974, she was sent to the Pauline Seminary, always in Mexico City.

She was then sent to the Divine Master Community in Monterrey, to support the workroom for embroidery and painting, until 1982. From there she was transferred to the Alberione house in Guadalajara, where she remained from 1982 until 1985. She was then asked to return to the Divine Master community in Mexico City to work in the painting workroom from 1985 until 1988. At the conclusion of this period, she was sent to Rome from 1988 until 1995. There she collaborated intensely with the sister from various nations in the Provincial House of Italy and in the House of the Society of Saint Paul in via Alessandro Severo (RM). Upon her return to Mexico (1995), she offered her collaboration

in the workroom for painting, but, in the same year, she left for Guadalajara, to collaborate in the service to the seminary of the Society of Saint Paul until 1999. She was then transferred to the Divine Master Community in Mexico City, to support the workroom for painting and animation in Sacred Music, for the remainder of her life.

Sr. Maria Lucía was a disciple gifted with fine artistic sensibility who worked in the area of the arts: music, song, painting, embroidery and goldsmithing. She had a deep love for our mission in the Church in its vast Eucharistic-Priestly-Liturgical dimension and, from the beginning of her formation, she dedicated herself entirely to it. She affectionately recalled and recounted the story of the beginnings of our Congregation in Mexico, characterized by a spirit of joy, of unlimited generosity, of sacrifice and of poverty, like that of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Sr. M. Lucía was characterized as a woman who was lucid, intelligent, and always attentive to the liturgy. God gave her the gift of praising him through sacred music. She loved music and, having obtained a suitable formation in this area, she carefully prepared whatever was needed for an active, conscious and fruitful celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ. However, her strength gradually began to wane, because 30 years ago she was diagnosed with a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that prevented her from singing. She was then diagnosed with breast cancer, systemic arterial hypertension and cardiac insufficiency. Despite all this, she continued to encourage singing in the community, in spite of her own limitations.

During these last days, she contracted bronchial pneumonia, from which she did not recover, and on December 5, 2023, at 7:55 AM, after receiving Holy Communion, she departed for the Father's House.

Those who knew her during her stay in Rome and the sisters of the Province of Mexico remember her with much affection. They remember the courteous treatment and attention she gave to each one, in the workroom, in the singing, in fraternal life, in the spaces of the community.

Her personal narrative continues to encourage us today: *«It is with joy that I recall how we arrived with great enthusiasm and I never had the desire to return to the family, since I was and am very happy in my vocation as a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master. I give infinite thanks to God for this beautiful vocation that he has given to me and I desire that many young women might have this same happiness, beside the Divine Master».*

Sr. M. Micaela Moneth'