



Dear Sisters,

On the Solemnity of the Apostles Saints Peter and Paul, June 29, 2024, at 6:28 PM, Jesus Master visited the Divine Master Community in Mexico City (Mexico) and definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. JOSEFINA – SOCORRO DE LA ROSA RIVERA
born on January 8, 1938, in Cuijingo (Mexico)

From a profoundly Catholic family, rich in faith and animated by values inspired from the Gospel, on July 3 of the same year, the little girl was baptized in the parish of the Sagrario Metropolitano of the Cathedral of Mexico City. She was the third of the seven children born of the marriage of Mr. Juvencio De La Rosa and Mrs. Andrea Rivera, persons who were exemplary in the education of their children and the transmission of the faith.

On November 18, 1956, at the age of 19, she entered the Congregation in the community of Mixcoac, Mexico City. She was an industrious young woman, with good human and religious principles. Her parish priest introduced her in this way: *«For as long as I have known her, she has distinguished herself by her piety and her concern for the things regarding divine worship. I can assure you that I believe she is suitable to serve God»*. Thus she was joined to the group of the first thirteen Mexican young women in formation, received by the Italian Sister Disciples, who were missionaries in Mexico from its foundation.

Sr. M. Josefina narrates that it was a moment of joyful acceptance, because *«we came to seek Jesus Master, we prepared ourselves to become and to belong exclusively to God, with a simple but profound formation to prayer and to the contemplative-apostolic apostolate»*. Upon completion of the novitiate, on January 6, 1960, she made her religious profession at the Divine Master House in Mexico City. And on January 6, 1965, she made her perpetual profession in Staten Island (USA).

She fulfilled the mission of the Sister Disciple, honoring and serving Jesus Master living in the Eucharist, in the priesthood and in the liturgical prayer with generosity and love, in various places and times.

From 1960 to 1961, after profession, she was sent to collaborate in the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Mexico City. In the same year, she was sent as a missionary to the USA to collaborate in the community of the Society of Saint Paul, where she remained until 1968, in various



cities: Derby and Canfield. She narrated that *«they were years of joy, sacrifice, adaptation for the language, environment, people, climate. A chain interwoven in silence, in suffering, in the total surrender of faith, but always loving»*. At the conclusion of this mission, she returned to Mexico to collaborate in the priestly service at Casa San Paolo, in Mexico City and San Pedrito, Tlaquepaque, Jal., until 1970. They were years of great joy and happiness, and of great hospitality in the Pauline Seminary. The following year, in 1971, she was asked to assume the responsibility of formator for the postulants.

In 1972, she received a new missionary call: she went to Sydney, in Australia, to collaborate with the Society of Saint Paul. *«With the help of God and the company of the Australian Sisters, I carried out my work in the priestly service filled with enthusiasm and hope»*. In 1976, she returned to her native land and, in 1979, was appointed Local Superior of the Saint Paul community in Guadalajara. From 1980 to 1983, she collaborated in the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Mexico City and then (1983 – 1987) as a Local Councilor in the Divine Master community in Mexico City.

In 1987, she went to Spain to collaborate at the LAC in Madrid. There she strongly experienced the acceptance of the sisters: *«The confidence in the entrusted responsibility, the distance from my homeland, from my family and from the community that I had left, became one in prayer and in the daily offering. What peace and serenity! An apostolate that was carried out and lived with renewed awareness and responsibility, a new experience of fraternity»*. She would often exclaim: *«When God prepares, everything goes better»*.

She returned to her country in 1992, to Mexico City, where she collaborated in the embroidery workroom until 1994. She was then transferred to Aguascalientes at the novitiate community of the Society of Saint Paul. From 1996 until 1999, she was called to serve, in the same city, as Local Superior of the Beato Timoteo Giaccardo Community, and from 1999 until 2003, she was appointed as a Provincial Councilor. Then from 2003 to 2007, she animated the same community as Local Superior.

At the conclusion of this time, she returned to the Divine Master community in Mexico City, in the embroidery workroom. With the same characteristic enthusiasm, she left for the Saint Paul house in Taxqueña, Mexico City (2010-2012), then (2012-2014) as Local Superior in the Divine Master community of Monterrey, followed by the community of Beato Timoteo Giaccardo in Aguascalientes, where she remained until 2016. In the same year, another obedience was requested of her: to collaborate in the kitchen of the Divine Master Community, San Pedrito, Tlaquepaque, Jal., an apostolate that she carried out with dedication. Finally, in 2017, she returned to the Divine Master community, Mexico City, to collaborate once again in the embroidery workroom.

Sr. M. Josefina greatly enjoyed the company of the sisters in the community. Especially in these last years, her presence transmitted peace and serenity in the Lord's call. Her mind was very clear: she knew the history of our beginnings in Mexico by heart. She was a person to whom we constantly referred in the history. One of her preoccupations was that of leaving

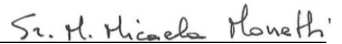
behind writings about the beginnings so that the new generations would know how our Congregation grew and developed in Mexico. In the embroidery workroom, she was always very welcoming toward the young women who entered the Congregation; she was very patient in teaching the art of embroidery, as well as culinary art, and she enjoyed transmitting all that was asked of her. Being a sister of the first hour, she rejoiced in all the achievements of the Congregation and suffered a great deal during times of difficulty.

In the last decade of her life there were symptoms of osteoporosis that led to a hardening of the cardiac artery. Little by little, this caused other complications such as pulmonary insufficiency and renal insufficiency. The sisters treated her with great care, day and night. She responded by thanking for every attention she received. She concluded her earthly pilgrimage comforted by the Anointing of the Sick and surrounded by the prayer of the community.

In her personal writings, she traced a summary of her life: *«The happiness of being a Sister Disciple, the joy of my consecration, the grace of the charism that I seek to live as well as possible each day, with the desire and the preoccupation that each day is better than the day before. Now nothing remains but to bow my head before Jesus and say: thank you, Jesus, for everything, especially for your love. Forgive me for all that I could have done and did not do, because I am not the disciple you expect me to be. Filled with confidence and in the company of Mary, your Mother and my Mother, I will continue my journey until I reach you».*

Let us receive these words of our sister and accept this exemplary heritage left to all the sisters in the Province of Mexico. We trust that she may also intercede for the fraternal visit of the General Government, which is beginning, that it may mark signs of progress in holiness and in the apostolate for everyone.

Rome, July 1, 2024


Sr. M. Micaela Monetti

