



Dearest Sisters,

Today we received the news that yesterday at 10:45 a.m. (local time) in the community of Bogota Las Orquideas (Colombia), our sister was called to live in the Light of God:

BARCO GENOVEVA Sr. MARIA DOLORES
born in Aranzazu (Caldas, Colombia) on October 3, 1936

She sealed her covenant with her Lord forever, just as the sisters of the province concluded their spiritual exercises. It was a memorable occasion for the last farewell to this dear sister who left an indelible mark on the province. The words written by her parish priest at the time of her admission to the congregation offer a fitting summary of her life: “She is a pious person, of good spirit and exemplary conduct.” And in one of her requests for the renewal of vows, Sr. M. Dolores expressed the depth of her desire: “I ask the Almighty to confirm me in my good intentions, so that I may truly please Him.”

With the desire to make a total gift of herself, she entered the congregation in the house of Manizales—the first formation house in Colombia—on November 17, 1955. She made her novitiate in Bogotá, followed by her first profession on March 19, 1959. Shortly after, she was sent to Caracas, Venezuela, a Pauline community which, in its early years, was canonically part of the Province of Colombia. In Caracas, and later in Lima, Peru, she shared in the excitement of the congregation’s early vocational and apostolic growth. She also had the joy of welcoming visits from Blessed James Alberione, Maestra Thecla, M. Nazarena Morando, and M. Ignazia Balla. For about twelve years, she made a valuable contribution to the apostolate of diffusion and the opening of book centers, always with special attention to those most in need. It was in Lima, Peru, on March 19, 1964, just weeks after the death of M. Thecla, that she made her perpetual profession.

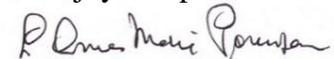
In 1972, by which time the communities of Venezuela were constituted into a delegation, sr M. Dolores returned to Colombia, where she generously utilized her skills to direct the book centers in Manizales, Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, and Cúcuta. She also served as the local superior of the community of Medellín for one term.

The Colombian sisters remember with gratitude her deep spirit of prayer. In the early hours of the morning, she could be found kneeling before the tabernacle, faithfully entrusting to the Divine Master the challenges of the mission and the communities of the province—communities she had seen grow with her own eyes. Vocations were always close to her heart; she longed for other young people to discover the joy of the Gospel, which she lived and proclaimed to all. Sr. M. Dolores lived the spirit of poverty and radiated sincere love for each person. She was faithful in friendships, which she nurtured with great dedication. She loved to study and took care to be well prepared for the mission. Truly a woman of hope, she was always smiling, gentle in her relationships, and attentive to all.

For some time, Sr. M. Dolores had been showing signs of Alzheimer’s disease, and more recently, gastrointestinal issues further weakened her physical condition. Day by day, she grew more fragile, yet she remained aware of her illness and made every effort to accept it with grace. Always attentive to those around her, she continued to offer herself in every circumstance for the sake of the Gospel. She went peacefully to meet the Lord, to contemplate forever the Face that had drawn her in her youth and remained the great love of her life.

With the Colombian sisters, we entrust Sr. M. Dolores into the hands of the Divine Master so that He may welcome her into eternal life and give her the fullness of joy and peace. Affectionately,

Rome, July 8, 2025


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan