



*"Faith in the resurrection  
opens up fraternal communion  
beyond the threshold of death ...".  
(RoL 24)*



Today, 23 November 2025, at 15.15 (local time),  
at the Institute of Cardiology of Bogotá-Colombia, our sister  
**Sr CARMEN DUQUE CUELLAR**  
has parted this earthly life.  
She was 79 years old and 54 years of religious life.

On the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the Father called our sister Carmen to enter his Kingdom. The words of the psalmist can sum up the journey of faith and radical discipleship of this joyful and faithful Pastorella: *"I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!"*

Carmen was born in Lebrija, Colombia, on 10 February 1946, and was baptized in the Parish of Lebrija on 27 June 1946. She entered the Congregation on 29 May 1965 at the Cathedral of St Joseph in Cúcuta, Colombia, just 14 months after the arrival of the first Pastorelle in Colombia, making her one of the first vocations from that country. Carmen entered the novitiate on 7 December 1969 in Bogotá and made her first profession on 8 December 1970, also in Bogotá, in the hands of Mother Celina Orsini, who, as Superior General, was on her first fraternal visit to Colombia, together with Sister Giuseppina Cosner.

Sister Carmen, after two years of temporary vows, was sent as a missionary to Araure, Venezuela, and returned to Bogotá in 1973. In 1974, she was sent to Cúcuta – Cathedral of Saint Joseph, where, in addition to her pastoral mission, she devoted herself to study. On 8 December 1976, she made her perpetual profession in Bogotá.

Sister Carmen, or "Carmencita" as she was commonly known, is described as a person of great faith and pastoral dedication, simple, joyful, prayerful, sensitive to the needs of others, with a great love for vocations and good relationships with all the people she met along the way. She loved and prayed for vocations for the benefit of the entire Church. She had a contagious joy, and she loved singing and conviviality within the Pauline Family and in various apostolates.

Sister Carmencita's missionary spirit led her to minister in both Venezuela and Colombia with the same dedication, and she was also open to other responsibilities, such as treasurer, Circumscription councillor, and community superior. After her perpetual profession, she served in the following parishes: 1977 Cúcuta – Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua; 1980 Cúcuta – Cathedral of Saint Joseph; 1984 Aparición de Ospino (Venezuela); 1985 Barcelona (Venezuela); 1990 Cúcuta – Cathedral of St Joseph; 1991 Bogotá; 1994 Cali; 2003 Bogotá; 2004 Cali; 2008 Cúcuta – Divina Pastora Parish.

In 2010, due to a stroke, she had to return to the Bogotá central house, where she received all the necessary care to regain some degree of mobility and live as independently as possible. We thank all the Sisters who have cared for Sr Carmen with love and dedication over these fifteen years and, in these last days when her condition worsened, have been at her side, offering not only medical care but also spiritual care and sisterly love.

The Sisters testify: *I will always remember her as a Pastorella of unshakable faith, joyful, prayerful, with a missionary heart, offering her sufferings and pains for the Congregation and for the world. Always with the rosary in hand, singing hymns to the Good Shepherd and Our Lady, welcoming, sociable, and praying for vocations. Until the very end, the invocation flowed from her lips and heart: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing"; she experienced this throughout her life and in the most difficult moments of her Easter.*

*Carmencita was a generous, prayerful, selfless sister, a lover of the Congregation. We shared happy and difficult moments as companions in the novitiate, travelling long distances to invoke God's Providence to allow the construction of our house in Bogotá. Always concerned for the growth of the Congregation, both materially and spiritually, she was hardworking, helpful, and possessed a great pastoral spirit.*

*Sr Carmencita was a welcoming, simple sister, ready to serve. She enjoyed being with people, visiting families, and listening to everyone. A parish priest, looking at Sr Carmen among the people, said of her: "This is how I want to see all the Pastorelle Sisters, immersed in the people, walking through homes and streets, welcoming and listening."*

Dearest Sr Carmen, as we entrust you to the Father's mercy, giving thanks for the wonderful gift of your life as a Pastorella, we ask you to intercede for holy vocations for the Church and the Congregation, and for a fruitful journey for the Hispanic America Province, where you lived your consecration with love.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Rome, 23 November 2025  
*Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*