



*"Faith in the resurrection
opens us to fraternal communion,
beyond the threshold of death"*
(RdV 24)



Today, 02 March 2019, at 6.00pm (local time)

in Bogotá, our sister

SR MARINA DE JESUS VILLAMIL PEÑA

returned to the Father's House.

She was 65 years old and 39 years of Religious Life.

In today's liturgy, the Gospel acclamation makes us sing our *"Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, to God who is, who was and is to come"* and we glorify God for the life and the vocation of Pastorella of Sr Marina de Jesús and we entrust her to his Mercy.

Marina de Jesús was born in Boyacá (Colombia) on 25 October 1953 and baptized in the parish of Tinjacá on 19 November 1953. Marina was the fifth of nine siblings and the only girl. She entered the Congregation on 22 November 1975 in the community of Bogotá and belongs to the first generations of Pastorelle Sisters of Colombia. She entered the novitiate on 16 April 1978 and made her first profession on 6 January 1980 in the hands of Sr Leonia Boito, who was one of the Italian founding sisters in Colombia, as well as Delegate Superior.

In 1981, after a year in Bogotá as kindergarten teacher, Sr Marina was sent to Cúcuta to do pastoral ministry in the city Cathedral, the same place that saw the first Pastorelle Sisters arrive from Italy. In 1986 she moved to Medellín where she carried out her pastoral ministry with great passion, especially in the areas of youth ministry and catechetics, as well as helping in the parish school. During this time, Sr Marina was also committed to obtaining a license in Religious Sciences, which she completed with a thesis on the sacrament of reconciliation. From 1990 to 1995, she was also superior of the same community.

In 1996, Sr Marina returned to Bogotá to take up the pastoral care of vocations, while from 1998 to 2002 she was appointed councillor and secretary of the Colombia-Venezuela-Mexico Delegation. In the year 2000, she returned to Cúcuta and dedicated herself to finding benefactors for the construction of an apostolic house in a very poor neighbourhood. Sr Marina was also engaged in formation. From 1992 to 1995, and again in 2002, she was responsible for the Juniorate.

In 2004, she was sent to Mexico where, for some time she specialized in vocation ministry. Subsequently she was engaged in both biblical and catechetical formation, promoted formative meetings with parents, young people and children. With the support of *Adveniat*, she built a hall, together with the sisters of the community, for the purpose of various educational, vocational and recreational activities useful for the neighbourhood.

Sr Marina was a sister gifted with a missionary, generous, responsible and creative spirit. Everywhere she would go, she was sensitive to the needs of the people of God and a mediator of Providence. She was a person of prayer who always sought the will of God in all events of life, joyful or difficult as they may be. In 2009, she began her battle against a cancer that at first seemed to be defeated. However, in 2017 she experienced mobility and memory problems that seemed to be due to Parkinson's disease. That is why she had to leave Mexico and return to Bogotá. In January 2019, after careful medical investigation, she was diagnosed with brain cancer and in few weeks, her condition worsened.

We thank the Pauline Family, especially the Society of St Paul, for supporting Sr. Marina spiritually in her time of trial. Special thanks to the Sisters who assisted Sr. Marina with love and dedication, offering her all that they possibly could to give her comfort.

Thank you, Sr Marina, for your life spent with missionary ardour. Intercede for us and for the whole Church a renewed pastoral zeal and good and holy vocations.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Albano Laziale (RM), 02 March 2019