



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



Today, 22 July 2019, at 4:22 am (local time),
in Imus – Cavite
our sister **FELISA SR MARY EDWARD J. PARCERO**
returned to the Father’s House.
She was 82 years old and 51 years of religious life.

While we celebrate with the Church the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, in the early hours of the day the Father called our sister Mary Edward to him. As we pray Psalm 63 we think of our sister who lived in fullness what she has asked so many times: *O God, you are my God, for you I long.* And again: *“My soul clings to you: your right hand holds me fast”.*

Felisa, first of five children, was born in Imus - Cavite on 27 April 1937 and was baptized in the Parish of Our Lady of the Pillar in Imus on 8 February 1955. She entered the Congregation on 10 October 1966 in Imus - Cavite, where she spent the first years of formation and on 28 June 1967 she entered the Novitiate, the first Novitiate organized in the Philippines. On 29 June 1968 she made her First Profession in Pasay City, in the Chapel of the Daughters of Saint Paul, taking the name of Sr. Mary Edward and on 23 June 1973, the Perpetual Profession at Imus.

Sr. Mary Edward was already an elementary school teacher before entering the Congregation, a skill that allowed her from the beginning of her pastoral mission to be involved in education, carrying out various tasks in Imus - Cavite: from 1968 to 1971 teacher in school; and in two distinct periods, from 1971 to 1973 and subsequently from 1976 to 1981, as the Principal of the Elementary school.

In 1974 she was appointed superior of the community of Mendez - Cavite; while from 1983 to 1986 in Tondo in Manila she fulfilled the service as Regional Vicar of the Philippines, working at the same time in the social and charitable ministry. She lived some periods in the USA (1986-1992; 1994-1996) to take care of her sick mother, alternating with her religious sister of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters.

From 1992-1993 and from 1997-2003 she was particularly involved in the pastoral care of the family and in the animation of the Basic Ecclesial communities in Tanza. In 2003 she returned to Imus - Cavite and in this last community she was also appointed as superior from 2005 to 2009.

Sr. Mary Edward is described by her formators as a person of profound interior life, generous, responsible, sincere, industrious, thoughtful in judgments and of strong character. The sisters who lived with her remember her as upright and joyful, resourceful, determined and responsible. Sr. Mary Edward, a native of Imus, from where our Congregation took her first steps, worked a lot for the beginnings of the Congregation in the Philippines.

Towards the end of 2018, her health condition started to decline. Sr. Mary Edward was cared for and lovingly accompanied by the sisters of the community in Imus. In the course of her illness, she maintained a serene gaze, giving thanks for every visit, every presence and every gesture of benevolence shown toward her. Sr. Mary Edward left this world in serenity and peace, leaving the sisters a testimony of faith and abandonment in the Lord.

We bless the Father for the gift of this sister and we thank all the sisters who in this time of sickness took care of Sr. Mary Edward with tenderness and gratuitousness. We entrust to the intercession of Sr. Mary Edward the celebration of the Pauline Vocational Year so that she may intercede for us the grace of "*Rekindling the gift of God*" received as a Pauline Family, to witness a Pauline religious life who lives and announces Jesus Master and Shepherd Way, Truth and Life in the world.

Sr. Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
superior general

Mutuca (Brazil), 22 July 2019
Feast of St. Mary Magdalene