



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



Today, 7 October 2019 at 7.15 pm (local time)
In the Novitiate Community of New Manila – Quezon City, Philippines

SR MARYLIN S. DELALAMON

returned to the House of the Father.

She was 42 years old and 15 years in the Religious Life.

Divine Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, present and active in the Church and in the depths of my soul, I adore you, I thank you, I love you!. And through the hands of Mary most holy, my Mother, I offer, give and consecrated myself entirely for life and for eternity. This prayer very dear to Sr. Marylin synthesizes the spirit of faith, of surrender to the will of God and daily offering that live in her heart.

Marylin, the eldest of five siblings, was born on December 15, 1976 in Hindang, Leyte (Philippines) into a humble and faith-rich family; she was baptized on 26 December of the same year in her native country. She joined the Congregation on 7 January 2001 in Lingayen and the following year, 3 September, entered the Novitiate in Quezon City. She made her First Religious Profession on 3 September 2004. On 3 September 2009 she made her Perpetual vows in the Cathedral of Imus, where the Bishop of Imus, today Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration, who always gave his presence of pastor and friendship both towards the Congregation and of Sr. Marylin visiting her last September 30

After her First Profession from 2004 to 2006, she was sent to Tanza, to take care of youth ministry. And from 2006 to 2008 in Imus, in the Juniorate community, where she was engaged for study as well as a part-time pastoral worker. From 2008-2009 she was in Rome-Traversari to deepen the Charism in preparation for perpetual profession. In 2009 she returned to the Philippines in Imus, in the community of Juniorate, to assume from 2010-2014 the commitment as the Postulant Mistress.

In 2012 she completed a Master's degree in religious studies with a specialization in Youth Ministry; she returned to Rome to participate, in the school year 2014-2015, in the Spiritual Theology “Card. Tomáš Špidlík” of the Aletti Center. At the end of the school year, Fr. Marko Rupnik, director of the Ezio Aletti Study and Research Center, made a request to the Congregation, in these terms: “*We want to create a formation team that already in itself represents this communal face of the Church. For this reason I ask you if it is possible to have as a member of the formation team Sr. Marylin Delalamon who is doing the Atelier this year and who seems to be the kind of person who could help exactly to create a communal context favorable to the growth of the persons who come studying*”.

After this time, she remained for about a year in the community of Rome-Via Traversari. On her return to the Philippines, in June 2018, she lived a brief apostolic experience in Digos community, but she left in December 2018 to go to the Novitiate community in New Manila and seek treatment, having been diagnosed with cancer already in its advanced stage.

Sr. Marylin, more affectionately called by all of us, Sr. May, is described as a humble and helpful sister, capable of suffering with a smile on her face, willing to sacrifice herself in order to help the other to meet the Lord. She knew how to perceive what was in the hearts of the persons she accompanied with great discretion during the courses of Spiritual Exercises in which she was a guide. Even in illness, she received as a special visit by the Father, she was able to find the signs of the new life received in Baptism. She never doubted the Love of the Lord for her and for the people who belong to her life.

Her spiritual guide describes her as follows: *What always amazed me about May was her transparency and simplicity: a disarming simplicity, truly evangelical. Beside her, I believe that anyone would feel at ease and perceive that life in God, after all, is really simple when lived in welcoming. She had a unique gift to read the events of every day as a word from the Lord and in this also the ability to help those around her.*

We thank each sister of the Congregation who through prayer, affection and closeness has made herself a vital participant in this time of Sr. May's illness. Signs of strong communion were frequent, which the sudden illness of this young sister not only among us Pastorelle, but with so many religious Congregations that knew Sr. May, so many acquaintances and friends who gathered around us in prayer and in helping in all levels and we thank you for this sign of the Merciful Love of the Good Shepherd. We thank Fr. Marko and all the friends of the Centro Aletti who loved Sr. Marylin and contributed to her journey of growth; thank you because they have valued and believed in the gift of our Pastorelle charism that Sr. May shared and above all witnessed. Thank you for their closeness and support during this period of illness, including the visit of some of them to Sr. May in the Philippines. A special thanks to Sr. Arsenia and the sisters of the Philippines for the loving, patient care and the continuous search for means of treatment that could bring relief to Sr. Marylin; which more than once expressed that she felt deeply loved by God through her sisters.

From one of her writings in 2008, before the request for admission to perpetual profession, inspired by the reading of today's memory of Our Lady of the Rosary: *I will sing with all my soul and praise the Lord. My heart is glad because of God my Savior for He has looked upon His humble servant .. and who am I to merit His Love?. The content of this song of Mary resonates my experience of God this years. God filled me with so many surprises that I could not help but to marvel the mystery of His call, faithfulness and love. Like Mary, who am I to merit His love, I am nothing. Words are not enough to express and articulate my gratitude to God who called me. In spite of my nothingness, limitedness, pains of confronting my own reality, my failures, my joys in my journey, He never failed to manifest hid life-giving presence. He is indeed my Good Shepherd.*

Eleven years later these words are confirmed and enriched by the testimony given by Fr. Marko Rupnik on May: *Dearest Sister May, we have trod a piece of road together. I had the grace of being your professor and, above all, your friend in the Holy Spirit, so that I remain a witness of how your heart was inhabited by the thirst of God the Father. You have a mind that loves God. For you it can be said that you have done what was asked: to love God with all your heart and mind. Your beautiful oriental face shone in the joy of the gift of life according to God. Your joy is as a beloved daughter.*

You carried in your heart the vocation of mother in the Holy Spirit. Now you can see that you are, and therefore continue to care for so many –we too - in your relationship with God the Father. As a wise and recollected woman, you have witnessed, at a time when the world is distracted and in which we Christians too often risk losing ourselves behind our projects, that what counts is the acceptance of the filial life that Christ came to extend over us. The new way of human existence was the thing that grasped you - the rest seemed unnecessary to you. We remain in communion, dear May, and in the love of which you have been the flame continues to warm us and pull us, in the inspiration for and of a life that remains forever, like an eternal memory of the One who passed among us, through us and makes us remain in him with all that we have lived together”.

While we entrust Sr. Marylin to the Mercy of the Father, let us treasure the phrases she repeatedly uttered in the course of her illness: *I am a beloved daughter of God and one day less or one more day is not important to me. How beautiful to belong to the Lord. Embrace and seek the true life!* We entrust to you dearest May the needs of the Church you loved and served, the needs of our Religious Family and of all those who have been part of your life and whom you loved with an undivided, simple and pure heart. Thank you for the gift you are for all of us!

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior general

Rome, 7 October 2019
Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
Dies Natalis of the Congregation