



Sr. Carmelita Monnin

BORN: June 1932

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 30, 1950

DIED: June 20, 2015

Sister Carmelita died in Chile on June 20, 2015. In June of 2014 she was saying her goodbyes to her sister Pat knowing she would not see her again. She spent precious time with her brother Tom and his wife Linda, Gerald and Laurene, Dennis and Georgia, and Carl Barlage. Two siblings have passed away – Pat and Georgia, and little did she dream that soon she would join them.

We are grateful for the presence of her family, who are with us today. We thank you for letting Carmelita give her all as a missionary of the Precious Blood even until her death.

Carmelita lived life with a passion rooted in a deep understanding of Precious Blood Spirituality and Mother Brunner's call that not one drop of His Precious Blood be shed in vain.

Father Humberto, Pastor of Our Lady of the Precious Blood Parish, shared in his homily at her funeral what made Carmelita so special: "Carmelita [was] a woman who lived freely, one who enjoyed life, who made Chile her home, the people her family and for 58 years imbibed its culture and customs. Her joy and creativity became contagious. She had a way of inviting others to get on the train that led to a true relationship with Jesus, planting the seed of the life-giving power of the Precious Blood in Purranque (sur de Chile), Saint Gaspar School, Froilan Roa, La Florida, and Cerro Navia."

In each place, Precious Blood groups were formed. Carmelita's deep love of the Eucharist motivated her to make the Eucharist an encounter with Christ and a real experience of the healing power of the Blood of Christ. Many wished to grow in an understanding of Precious Blood Spirituality. Her time in

Purranque was before Vatican Council II. She sensed that a thousand families were deprived of the Eucharist, so she got on a horse or walked many miles each Sunday to share at least the Word of God with families in the farm areas.

In 1968, Carmelita returned to Santiago. After Vatican II, a new church was being born more in tune with the culture of Latin America, made up of small based communities. Religious were asked to insert themselves in the poor areas. In 1979 the area called Froilan Roa, a base community of seven people, requested that a community of religious be present among them. We answered their request, and Carmelita formed part of this community. Very soon several base communities were formed. From them, the first Precious Blood group was born in 1989. They still exist today and here began the sharing of the healing power of the Precious Blood that flows through all. Wherever Carmelita set foot, Precious Blood groups were formed.

Carmelita lived life with a passion, a passion in Mother Brunner's last words, "I will continue this work even in eternity." She introduced Mother Brunner to Chile and the wish "that not one drop of His blood be shed in vain" became her passion.

Carmelita discovered a profound value in the Eucharist. You can say she was a Eucharistic woman. Her spirituality of the Precious Blood grew and was transmitted to each group she guided. Father Umberto expressed that in her last days of suffering, she was a sign of resurrection and conversion for all of us, especially for her parish: "Her death is a grain of wheat that died so a new life may grow, and new vocations. We will miss you, but we know you continue the work of Mother Brunner and Saint Gaspar, and that your prayers to Mother

Brunner cure the incurable. No longer do we try to answer the question of 'What is Precious Blood Spirituality?' but 'How do we experience the life-giving power?'"

At the time of her death, Iris Marandio, the housekeeper of the priests shared this experience: "To a great woman, Sister Carmelita, always united in the Blood of Christ: Thank you, Sister, for what you have planted in me. I am filled with joy for the marvels I have learned. You motivated me to live the Eucharist in a profound way, and you taught me to discover and receive the Blood of Jesus in love and in pain. You were always ready to take time to listen with great love, always happy, dynamic and loving."

Permit me to share a few tidbits of her last days. The Bishop of the area came to pray with her and knelt before her. Carmelita took his cross to kiss it, but she pulled so hard that the chain broke. She continued to hold the cross in her hand.

On Monday, June 15, the day before Carmelita's birthday, Sisters Ceil and Joyce arrived. Carmelita was in a semi-coma both that day as well as on her birthday. On Wednesday she woke and recognized Ceil and Joyce and forced herself to stay awake to be with them. They then celebrated her birthday.

On Friday, June 19, her last day, she thanked the Sisters and everyone for everything they'd done for her. She was holding a small stuffed puppy, which she received from Noemi's niece; she put it on her head and said, "Woof, woof." These were her last words. During the night she continually indicated that she wanted the four Sisters to pray with her. At 2:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2015 she peacefully passed away.

— Sister Dorothy Schmitmeyer