

**DEAR GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR  
THE GIFT OF  
SR. ISA SOLÁ RJM**



**DEDICATED FOR JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM**

**From the letter of Sr. Monica Joseph RJM, Superior General,  
To all the Religious in the Congregation  
Rome, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

“After receiving this news, I sat in our Chapel in Paris asking - God why did you allow this to happen to her of all people...she had so many dreams and so much to offer...we are so few...why God...why NOW why??? What do you want from us as a Congregation and as individual RJMs???

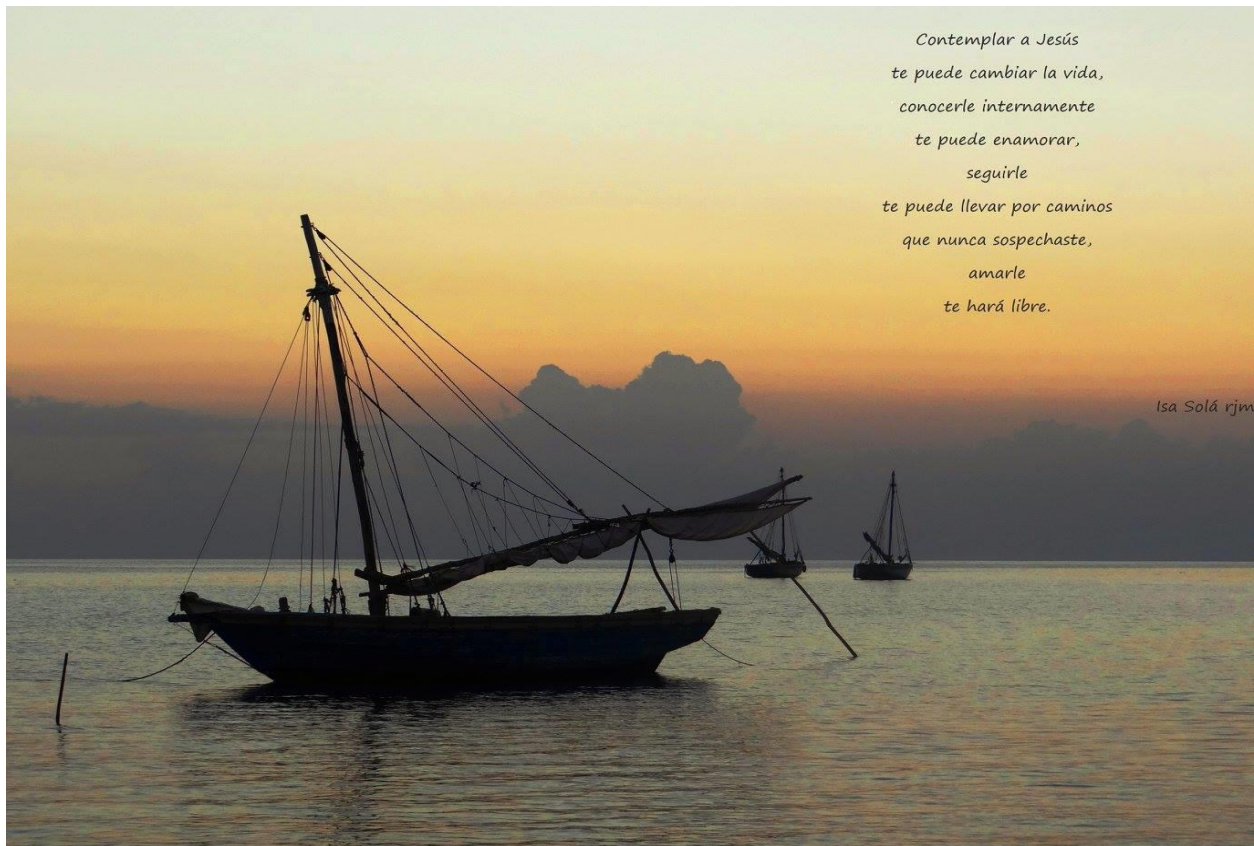
I have no answers and it is beyond my human understanding, but I am grateful for my faith that helps me especially at this point in time to live this in peace. Yes, I believe, Isa is with God, happy and smiling as she was on earth; she is with Claudine and Dina; she is with her dear parents, especially her mother who passed away this year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January and her dear brother who died a few days later on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Now, Isa the youngest of a family of 6 children has been called to another fuller life, Yes, I believe it is not the end, but the beginning of something new and that her spirit will live on especially in Haiti and the good work that she has begun will continue no matter what. I feel fortunate to have known Isa, and glad that I met her in Rome in July 2016. She shared with me her dreams for Haiti and I remember the sparkle in her eyes and the

energy in her voice...the Prosthetic Centre was doing well... the Postulant that she accompanied was ready for Cuba... a plea for more RJMs... her heart and mind were geared to another project - a JM School in Port au Prince, and it was only last week that she was delighted with the first staff meeting.

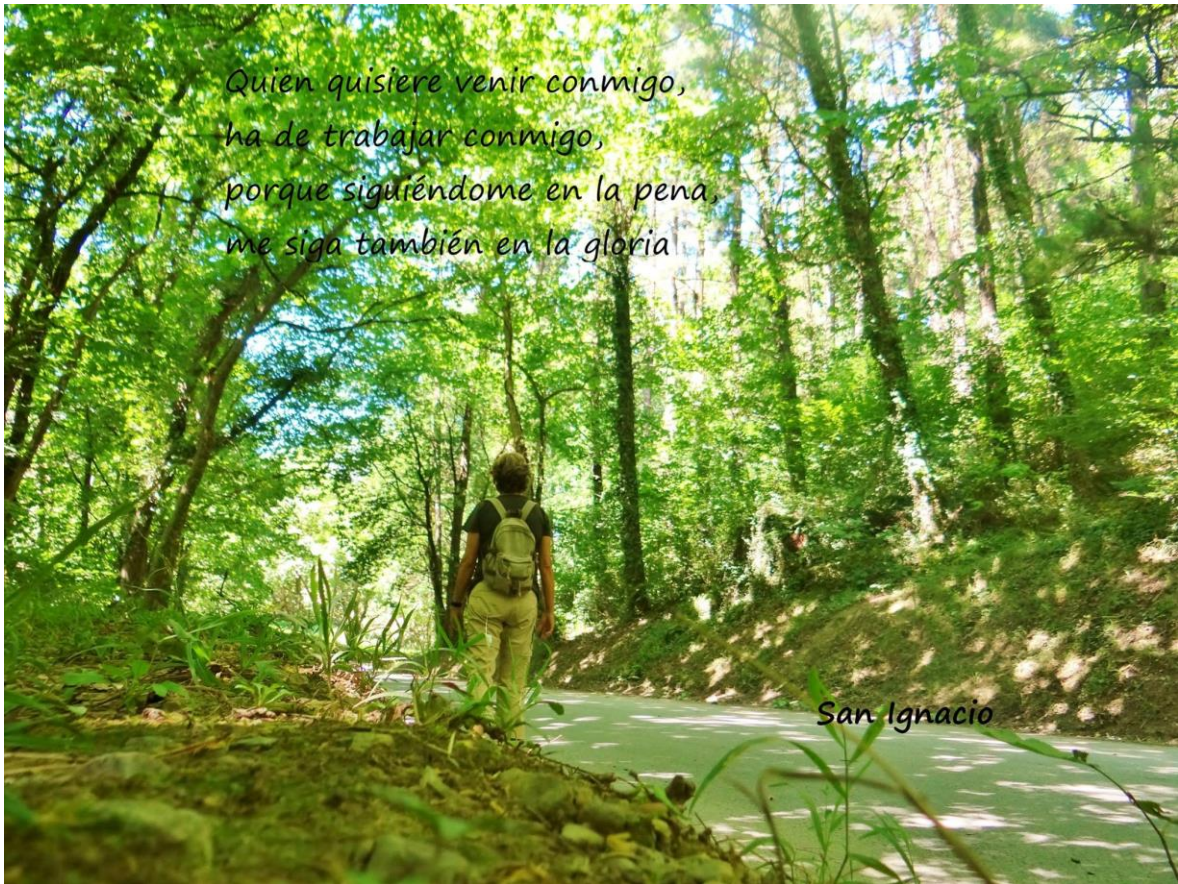
However, this life was suddenly snuffed out...

Yes, we have lost Isa through violence. We have two choices before us... to enter into this viscous cycle of violence or like Claudine to forgive - who witnessed the death of not one, but two of her brothers at the same time...they did not die immediately but had to be clubbed to death. We have some consolation to know that our dear Isa did not suffer much; she died instantly with the shots.

Let this be an opportunity for us to be positive and forgiving and choose ways and means like Claudine to bring about greater healing and reconciliation in our wounded violent world. It is not accidental that at this point in history, we as a Congregation face unnatural deaths, rape, robbery and murder and thus participate in the Cross of Christ: to be merciful and forgiving especially during this Year of Mercy.”



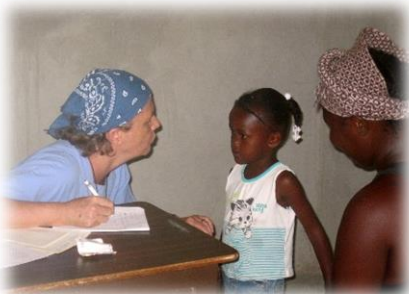




Quien quisiere venir conmigo,  
ha de trabajar conmigo,  
porque siguiéndome en la pena,  
me siga también en la gloria

## LOVE : GRACE, SACRIFICE AND PARDON

*“Viv manman notre dam, manman pèp ayisyen espwa nèg ak negès nou vin fèw konpriman”* this was the refrain that Sister Isa always sang after Compline to Mary



known under the name of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the patroness of Haiti. Today, **September 4, 2016, the feast of our Blessed Dina Bélanger**, I wish to share with you, dear sisters, friends, family and relatives of Sister Isa my profound desolation because of her tragic death in Haiti, my beloved country and also the country that she loved so much.

According to her, no person can live without love. Whether it is a robber or thief, evil, poor, etc... love was the reason the motivation of her life, the cause to defend every day to serve the Haitian people. Then, it was that love that urged her, that moved her to come

to Haiti after having lived 18 years in Africa where she also lived and experienced difficult and hard moments. I knew “Hermana Isa” (her pseudo in the community) since November 2008 when she came to Haiti. I have experienced her passion for the mission that God had entrusted in our midst, her great desire to learn rapidly the creole language since according to her language is fundamental to get close to the people, to understand them and to share their miseries. She wanted to accompany them, to take care and cure them and to help them to discover God’s love even in the difficult state in which they lived. She had a big heart, a heart that could love and forgive. I could not understand why when she spoke with emotion about the misery of the Haitian people she began weeping. I thought it was only sensibility, but today, whole-heartedly, I understand that it was out of love. An unconditional love that cost her life. She spent much time writing projects, asking for help to her doctor friends of Spain in order to help those in greater need. For her, everything was a grace. Sometimes she forgot herself to give what she was, the little that she possessed to others. Her generosity and great desire to do more, to work without stop, to fix an end or purpose for the future of the Congregation in Haiti had no limits. In spite of her multiple activities, she complained at every instant of having done nothing since the needs of our people were very numerous.

She was not only a sister, but also a person on whom one could count at every moment. She was always available, concerned and caring for others, discreet, active, understanding, her joy was communicative and her absence already hurts us very much. She had a mad or crazy love for the poorest, according to her, love should be placed more on acts than on words. You must feel God’s love in order to love like he and his pardon to forgive or pardon. You cannot understand and truly give what you have not experienced, that which you do not feel profoundly, in the depth of yourself. Contemplate the Lord to be like Him, since God not only loved the more beautiful, the more intelligent, the best but also the less good, the poor and the evil ones. To love those who harm you, who do you evil, to pardon those who snatch or who take way a dear one from you is not easy. However, they are those preferred by God... ask Him why? Ask Him for explanations? This is a great challenge that we have to face every day. These were her words during a formation session. Sister Isa was not only a formator but also a mother with a great heart.

A big thanksgiving to God for having given us such a missionary, thanks for her life and for what she has left us an inheritance, which is her **Love**. Thanks to her family for this



precious gift to the Church. Her life did not depend on her but on God. Her hour has arrived, now friends, family, our sisters, the members of her family of Jesus and Mary, it is up to us to continue the mission, which God entrusted to her on this earth. For it is not in knowing much which fills and satisfies the soul, but to feel and to relish things interiorly, as Saint Ignatius tells us. Death is does not have the last word!!!

Courage, may the Good God bless us all and give us the strength to overcome this painful, sorrowful moment with peace in Jesus and through Mary. I am yours affectionately.

Middia Doute,  
Postulant of Jesus and Mary,  
Cuba September 4, 2016.



**SR. ISA WORKED IN HER MISSION WITH**



**LOVE**



**SERVICE**



**COMPASSION**



**From Sister M<sup>a</sup> Ángeles Aliño, RJM,  
Provincial Superior of Spain  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

These days I find myself in Haiti, in Port au Prince, sacred land where our dear Sister Isa has shed her blood, surrendering her life to the Lord and at the service of her brothers and sisters until the end. We can say that Isa has died as she has lived, giving everything.

The news of her murder has caused a profound sorrow. We all feel very sad because of her death, so unjust and unexpected: family, relatives, sisters of the Congregation, religious - men and women-, priests, friends..., members from different entities... The Haitian people also feel and express great sorrow and pain because people here have loved her very much and cannot accept what has happened, since Isa loved these people, gave herself completely to these people and had them in her heart.

As a Sister of our Congregation of Jesus and Mary, I have had the privilege of having lived and shared with her many moments of her vocation and her life, her ideals, illusions, projects... and above all seeing with what joy and enthusiasm, she lived her consecrated missionary life.

Even in the midst of the great sorrow, thanksgiving to God, Lord of Life, springs from my heart, for the gift of Isa, for her life, for her prophetic witness, for always radiating joy, generosity, dedication to the poor and pardon, which we are sure she has granted to those who took away her life. This is the message that Jesus left to us from the Cross: “Father, forgive them because they do not know what they are doing” and which Saint Claudine, our Foundress lived when her two brothers were killed.

The Lord gifted Isa with many gifts and qualities, among these, that of singing. She had a sweet and beautiful voice. I feel deeply moved remembering her playing the guitar and singing, with the melody that she composed for the prayer that we have recited so many times: “Lord, take and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and all my will. You gave these to me, to you Lord I give them back...”

Now from Heaven she smiles at us, she enjoys the presence of God and intercedes for all.

María Ángeles Aliño RJM

# FAMILY OF JESUS AND MARY



Rome, September 7th, 2016

Dear Sisters of Jesus and Mary and Members of AFJM in Haiti,

The heart of the members of AFJM throughout the world is in pain by the tragic death of our dear Sr. Isa. We send you our warm message of consolation, our presence, closeness and prayers to understand such a situation with a merciful look on the reality of the world and give thanks for the people who work for others generously, anonymously and humbly on daily basis.



May God help us to recognize the value of the people who live for others like our dear Sr. Isa.

May the forgiveness transmitted by St. Claudine illumine each one of us to live this moment so difficult to understand.

We are with you from all parts of the world.

With a big hug and affection.

*Sr. Marie-Elisabeth Ides and Consuelo Mengual*

AFJM

**Thank you, Father for  
this great missionary**

**PRAISED FOREVER BE  
JESUS AND MARY**

