

# Catalina Mendoza

## Our everlasting president

We commemorate the 69 anniversary of Doctor honoris causa, Catalina Mendoza Arredondo, the founder and everlasting president of Congregación Mariana Trinitaria

We want to remember the life of a remarkable woman like Catalina Mendoza, who was able to accomplish her dreams as a result of working hard in favor of the vulnerable people. Her legacy remains intact thanks to the people she inspired to make the world a better place for everybody with no distinction of any kind.



**“Thank you for this opportunity you give me to be, to do, to grow and to leave a mark in the heart and in the memory of all the people”.**

Dra. H. C. Catalina Mendoza Arredondo. Founder of Congregación Mariana Trinitaria.

### A woman who changed lives

Catalina Mendoza Arredondo created her own Health Model, and in tandem, she founded one of the most distinguished civil societies to combat multidimensional poverty. In 1971 she started studying to become a nurse, but she also studied about Mayan medicine without having an idea that the knowledge and her particular gifts would change thousands of lives.

In one of her anecdotes, Catalina Mendoza used to mention that when she was five or six years old, she got sick and a fever kept her in bed for seven days and nights. Those days she listened to a voice that whispered: “Catalina, pray an Our Father...” and the temperature stabilized after that.

From that moment on, the revelations happened more regularly. “I used to tell my mother about events that will happen, she did not know how to handle that; once a woman told her that I had a special gift”, she remembered.

She married the love of her life, Rubén Leyva Carreño on September 15, 1973. They stayed together for 45 years, and they taught their four sons to love others, and to put themselves in somebody else’s shoes.

Catalina Mendoza Arredondo saw the way low-income families used to pawn their tools as a desperate act to solve health problems. For that reason, she gathered a Volunteers’ Board in 1995, and two years later she founded what we currently know as Congregación Mariana Trinitaria.

### Actions that will not be forgotten

When she passed away on November 13, 2018; her legacy became a legend, and her ideas and actions are still alive thanks to people she inspired. She is remembered by all the people who knew her and also by the ones who could change their lives thanks to her actions.

After she died, she was given a homage by the members of the LXIV State Legislature in Oaxaca, in that moment the 42 deputies observed a minute’s silence in the Parliament.

In January 2018, Universidad La Salle Noroeste granted a Doctorate in Humanities Honoris Causa to Catalina Mendoza Arredondo, who was now in the list of remarkable people who studied in that university; business people, politicians and scientists (between them we can mention Norman E. Borlaug who received the Nobel Peace Prize) that had been also granted with an honorary title in that university.



**This March 22 will be the birthday of Dra. H.C. Catalina Mendoza Arredondo.**



**She received the Medal “Donaji” from the government of the state of Oaxaca.**

on presidents, governors, majors, legislators, business men and academic authorities; so as they could accomplish goals with no excuses or delays.

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria is deeply connected to the principles of its founder, Catalina Mendoza Arredondo, to provide benefits to different areas in the 32 states through subsidies and co-investments that contribute to social cohesion, and links to help and collaborate; boost social development in areas to support education, health, food, to improve housing and public areas, use of technologies, sustainable environments, and support to savings addressed to productive projects.

Nowadays, the dreams and goals of a woman who never had boundaries were finally reached and they are able to promote welfare. Catalina Mendoza did not pass away, she passed the Doctorate honoris causa to Congregación Mariana Trinitaria.

**In order to recognize her dedication and her career, the founder of CMT, Catalina Mendoza was granted several awards:**



- National Award to Solidary and Voluntary Actions in the category of Honorary Mention, granted by the Mexican Government.
- Award “Corresponsables de Iberoamérica” to her model based on citizen participation for community development.
- Award “Juárez” granted to people with outstanding actions in Civility and Values to recognize her philanthropic work.
- She was declared as a distinguished citizen, and she was granted the Medal “Donaji”, both are considered the highest acknowledgements given by the government in Oaxaca, and they were granted to recognize her work in favor of people who need help.
- Doctorate in Humanities honoris causa, granted by Universidad La Salle Noroeste.

#### Dates to remember

March 22, 1952; she was born in Mexico City



In 1971 she started her studies to become a nurse, and also she started learning and practicing ancient Mayan Medicine

September 15, 1973; she married Rubén Leyva Carreño.



In 1995 she gathered a Volunteers’ Board with the objective of developing social welfare

February 18, 1997; she founded Congregación Mariana Trinitaria as a Civil Society



November 13, 2018, she passed away when she was 66 years old



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