

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

On this First Saturday of June, while we are already in the climate of the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Divine Master visited the local hospital of Curitiba, Brazil, at about 1:00 p.m., to call to himself our sister:

BOFF CORONA ONORABILE – SR. CATERINA
born in Villa Maquiné R.G.S. (Porto Alegre), Brazil on 20 October 1926.

Sr. Catarina entered the Congregation in Porto Alegre on 21 March 1949, following in the footsteps of her older sister Sr. Agostinha and paving the way for her younger sister, Sr. Clara: three sisters who have left on the Congregation and on our Brazilian Province an indelible sign of missionary zeal and love for the Gospel.

In 1952, Sr. Catarina was sent to the Divine Master community, Sao Paulo to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 25 January 1953. From the beginning, she joyfully served the Lord through every duty entrusted to her by obedience, willingly serving as cook in the big Porto Alegre community, then enthusiastically carrying out the FSP mission to the families, and then performing numerous household duties in the communities of Maringa, Recife, Sao Paulo DM, Fortaleza, Salvador and Brasilia.

Sr. Catarina did not pursue higher academic studies but her practical intelligence and generous heart allowed her to carry out many different tasks with great zeal. She never made distinctions between the various forms of apostolate. Kitchen, laundry, book center duties, service as a driver or enlisting subscribers for the *Family Magazine*—she embraced all these assignments with an open mind and heart that yearned to reach the ends of the earth so as to bring the Gospel to everyone.

In 1987, Sr. Catarina received the grace to be sent as a missionary to Maputo, Mozambique, where she dedicated herself with great love to book center and community responsibilities. In 1994 she returned to Brazil and was inserted into the Recife community but she remained there just a short time. In 1999, she received the joyous news that she had been chosen to help establish our FSP presence in Angola. In that tiny community of 3 sisters, she lived the Pauline mission with intensity, passion, zeal and creativity through her work in the book center, in the administration sector and in the numerous practical services at which she was expert. She particularly enjoyed making rosaries that were then distributed far and wide among the Angolan people. Considering Sr. Catarina's age, it was expected that her sojourn in Angola would be a brief one...just a year or so. But in actual fact it was 2010 before she returned to her homeland, after having dedicated to the people of Angola all the energy and enthusiasm for the Pauline vocation and apostolate that filled her heart.

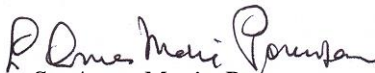
When she returned to Brazil, she was assigned to the Cidade Regina community, Sao Paulo, and then was transferred to Curitiba in 2016. Even though she was no longer in Africa, the continent and its peoples remained deeply rooted in Sr. Catarina's heart. She continually prayed for the sisters carrying out the Pauline mission in that part of the world and often reminisced with nostalgia about the years she had spent in direct contact with a population thirsting for God.

Sr. Catarina was a sister totally stripped of self—a person who lived in a spirit of self-donation nourished by her profound relationship with her Lord and Master and with the Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles, whom she had learned to tenderly love at a very young age. Her simplicity, cheerfulness and ability to accept every situation from the hands of God the Father were characteristic of her life up to the very end.

Her call to heaven was unexpected: she had been suffering from cardio-respiratory problems and this morning her condition worsened to the point that she was admitted to the Curitiba hospital. There, she found the Lord waiting for her to give her the reward promised to his faithful apostles.

Sr. Catarina spent her many years on earth preparing the “room” of her life so that the Lord would find her ready for his call to celebrate Easter—the Easter of the Covenant, of spousal intimacy, of self-offering and unlimited love—with him in the heavenly Jerusalem.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 2 June 2018