

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at about 4:30 p.m. yesterday, one of our sisters said her final *yes* to the Lord, surrounded by the prayers and affection of the other members of the Cidade Regina community, Sao Paulo, Brazil:

ZIGLIO DOZOLINA – SR. FELICIDADE
born in Barra Bonita (Sao Carlos, Brazil) on 31 May 1920.

The name of our sister (Felicidade—“happiness”) was a whole program of life because, in fact, she lived the 75 years of her Pauline life in joy, intensive work and happiness. She was part of a large Italian family that had emigrated to Brazil and it was within her family circle that she assimilated a profound spirit of faith and self-offering.

She entered the Congregation in the Sao Paulo DM community on 6 January 1937, together with her sister (the future Sr. Angela), following in the footsteps of their oldest sister, Sr. Aparecida, who died in 2005. Sr. Felicidade underwent her initial formation in the Divine Master community, Sao Paulo, where she carried out above all the “propaganda” apostolate. These were the foundation years of the FSPs in Brazil and Sr. Felicidade did her part to ensure that the Pauline life put down solid roots in the country. She made her novitiate in the DM community, concluding it with her first profession on 25 January 1943. Afterward she served for two years as cook for the St. Joseph community of the Society of St. Paul.

Following this, she returned to the propaganda apostolate, which she carried out very enthusiastically for almost 30 years in the dioceses of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, sowing the Word of God and the perfume of her virtues wherever she went. She had deeply assimilated the words of our Founder, who said: “The Gospel cost Jesus his life. It should also cost you your lives.... It is Eucharistic souls who carry out the apostolate most ardently... an ardor that always finds new initiatives to carry out with zeal” (FSP41m p. 166). Sr. Felicidade never lamented the fatigue and hard work involved in the apostolate. What was important to her was that the Gospel “race ahead.” In her long life, she never had a chance to study beyond the elementary level, but she possessed a wealth of wisdom drawn from prayer at the foot of the Tabernacle, and this continual prayer obtained from the Divine Master many graces for all the people she met while carrying out the Pauline mission.

Afterward, with the same enthusiasm and apostolic passion, she devoted herself to community services, especially in the kitchen and laundry room, in the communities of Belo Horizonte, Cidade Regina and Recife, her whole being radiating her joy at the chance to serve her sisters. In 1975, she wrote to Superior General Sr. Ignazia Balla: “I want to renew my *yes* to the Lord and faithfully live the charism of the Founder. I love my Congregation and I feel that my Congregation loves me in return. I praise and bless God for that love. Thank you for everything.”

In Porto Alegre, Sr. Felicidade worked with great commitment in the bindery for several years. After an interval in Curitiba and Cidade Regina (where she was assigned to the laundry room), she once again joyfully returned to the technical apostolate. For as long as her health permitted, she worked with great respect alongside the numerous lay collaborators in the Cidade Regina bindery. All were greatly edified by Sr. Felicidade’s simplicity, self-donation and perpetual smile. The lay employees who came to the community from branch houses to participate in formation meetings would always run to the bindery to greet this dear sister who was truly the personification of happiness.

The words of our Founder had penetrated her heart: “It’s not important if we use one means or another,” he said. “What is important is to have an ardent heart that yearns to pour out its fullness on others” (FSP47, p.417). For many people, Sr. Felicidade was this channel of grace, light and wisdom. She was a “small edition of the Gospel,” a Pauline apostle who “gave her all” so that others might have life.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 14 June 2018