ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO CASA GENERALIZIA Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25 00163 Roma Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 1:00 p.m. today, the Feast of Our Lady of Lujan, the Patroness of Argentina, one of our sisters was called to eternal life from San Camillo Hospital, Buenos Aires:

## MINNIG SR. ELSA born in Hinojo (Buenos Aires), Argentina on 14 December 1927

Sr. Elsa entered the Congregation on 6 March 1942 at the age of 15, along with her sister, Sr. Lidia, who died in 2006. The two came from a family of German origins and had 9 other siblings. The whole family had solid roots in the Faith and a great love of work.

As a postulant, Elsa carried out door-to-door diffusion of the Word of God in the Santa Fe diocese, after which she was sent to the San Miguel community to make her novitiate. This stage of her formation concluded with her first profession on 8 December 1945. As a young professed, Sr. Elsa continued to carry out the diffusion and book center apostolates with her characteristic energy in the communities of Rosario and Buenos Aires. After her perpetual profession, she returned to Santa Fe and from there was sent to Tucuman. In both dioceses, she dedicated herself with great zeal to book center and "propaganda" activities.

Following this, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency of Buenos Aires but almost immediately afterward she returned to the book center apostolate in Tucuman, Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza and once again Buenos Aires. From the latter she commuted to the La Plata book center, which she managed for about 10 years. In every locality, Sr. Elsa carried out the Pauline mission with competence and love, striving to place all her energy and talents at the service of the Gospel.

For several years she worked in the circumscription's administration sector, after which she returned to the book centers of Montevideo (Uruguay) and Tucuman. In 1983, she was once again assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency in Buenos Aires, first its Calle Larrea branch and then Sarmiento. Returning to the book center apostolate, she continued to serve the public discreetly and attentively, striving to help the Word of God reach as many people as possible and disregarding the fatigue involved in her long, daily subway commutes.

In spite of her advancing age, she then dedicated herself to various community services, especially work at the reception desk in Nazca (Buenos Aires).

When she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious profession, Sr. Elsa wrote: "Every morning I thank the Lord for the new day he has given me because it is another day of grace—another chance to become holy, which is the whole purpose of the Pauline life... I am deeply moved to think that 50 years have passed since my profession: an emotion I can express only before the Tabernacle because Jesus knows me profoundly. I rejoice when I recall all the graces he has granted me over the years. I thank him for his generosity and I hope I will never lose my enthusiasm or the interior peace he has given me."

In the last years of her life, Sr. Elsa's physical condition steadily declined because of lung problems. A few days ago she was rushed to the hospital because she was having great difficulty breathing.

The Liturgy of today consoles us with the words: "This is the will of the One who sent me: that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day" (Jn. 6:39). We entrust our dear sister to the loving arms of the risen Christ, asking him to bless her with abundant life and eternal happiness.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General