

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

Just after midnight last night, the Divine Master visited St. John of God Hospital, Pasay City (Manila), Philippines, to call to eternal intimacy with himself our sister:

BRAVO ELENA – SR. M. EULALIA
born in Iloilo City, Philippines, on 22 February 1926.

Sr. Eulalia entered the Congregation in Lipa on 26 May 1949, at the age of 23. After a time of initial formation, followed by her novitiate in that community, she made her first profession on 19 March 1952. She then carried out the “propaganda” apostolate for about 20 years in various local communities in the Philippines and also in Malaysia, where she was one of the founding sisters.

With fervor, enthusiasm and profound conviction in the Pauline mission, she traveled the roads of Manila, Cebu, Lipa and Naga with a bag overflowing with books and a smile on her lips, spreading the perfume of her goodness and simplicity wherever she went. In 1961, she was one of the four sisters asked to establish the Congregation’s presence in Malaysia. Chronicles of the times recount that Sr. M. Eulalia, Sr. Elisabetta Capello, Sr. Assunta Labay and Sr. M. Virginia Guevarra sailed for Kota Kinabalu, Northern Borneo (today known as Sabah), on 21 January 1961. Laden with books in English, which they had brought from the Philippines, these ardent missionaries immediately began the diffusion apostolate, courageously overcoming the many problems they encountered, especially in their visits to the villages, due to their inability to speak the local languages and the scarcity of means of social communication. But thanks to their tenacity and zeal, the apostolate immediately began to bear fruit. Together with her companions, Sr. Eulalia visited the provinces of Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei in northern Borneo. The sisters also periodically visited the Christians and non-Christians in the tiny villages scattered in the jungle.

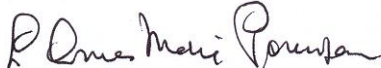
When she returned to the Philippines in 1968, Sr. Eulalia dedicated herself primarily to book center work and also to the technical apostolate for a certain period of time. In the communities of Iloilo, Lipa, Olongapo, Bacolod, Pasay and Naga, she was a communicative, joyous and enthusiastic member of the book center staff, always attentive to the needs of the people. She was also a tireless vocationist, who always asked the young women who visited the book center: “Would you like to become a Daughter of St. Paul?” Her sweetness and conviction led many of them to accept her invitation, receiving the question as a call from the Lord. Sr. Eulalia had a big heart and wished she had “a thousand lives” so as to help out wherever there was need in the Congregation. She even offered her services to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy, at a time when it was experiencing particular problems, but her generous offer was not accepted because there were also many needs in the Philippines.

Sr. Eulalia carried out the Pauline mission zealously but she was also a woman of profound prayer. The chapel was her “home” and she wanted it to be large and spacious enough to welcome as many people as possible, especially members of the laity, with whom she wanted to share the wealth of the Pauline charism.

About a year ago, Sr. Eulalia was transferred from Iloilo to the Pasay City infirmary due to advancing age and fragile health. This past November she contracted pneumonia—a health issue that hastened her meeting with her Lord and Master.

We want to place our dear sister in the hands of St. John the Evangelist, asking that in heaven she too be granted the grace to penetrate the mysterious depths of the Word of God. And we want to entrust to her intercession not only all the young women carrying out a vocational discernment, but also the Chapter of her beloved province, which begins today in Pasay City.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 27 December 2018