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Dearest Sisters,

In the midst of our preparations for Christmas, we received the news that at 11:30 a.m. today (local time) the Virgin Mary visited our Città Regina community in São Paulo, Brazil to lead to the kingdom of heaven our sister:

**POTRICH TERESIHNA – SR. GABRIELLA**  
**born in Encantado (Cruz Alta–Rio Grande do Sul), Brazil, on 17 June 1929.**

Sr. Gabriella entered the Congregation in the Divine Master community, São Paulo, Brazil on 8 Dec. 1947, following the example of her younger sister, Sr. M. Bernarda, who died several years ago. She made her novitiate in that community, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. As a young professed, Sr. Gabriella carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Curitiba, and after her perpetual profession in 1957 she continued to dedicate herself to this apostolate with great enthusiasm in the dioceses of Belo Horizonte, São Paulo and Fortaleza, where she focused in particular on promoting subscriptions to the *Family Magazine*.

A simple and humble person, but at the same time refined, discreet, wise and witty, she established warm relationships with people very easily. She loved her vocation and firmly believed in the effectiveness of the Pauline mission. In 1976, she wrote: “I am completely happy to be consecrated to God and I am striving to grow in the Spirit, the Source of all my joy. I can contribute to the glory of God by carrying out whatever service of evangelization is asked of me, so that many souls may be saved. I know that my first duty is to become holy and since I feel very imperfect and far from this ideal, I live in humble trust, relying on the power of God.... We have a very solid piety and I want to take maximum advantage of it to grow more profoundly.... I am very grateful to God and to the Congregation for all the spiritual and material benefits I have received.”

Sr. Gabriella was a gifted seamstress and also an excellent cook and she put these skills to good use in the communities of Lins, São Paulo/DM and Bello Horizonte. She was also a very competent member of the book center staff in Maringa and in Città Regina (São Paulo). A person who spread joy wherever she went, Sr. Gabriella was happy to enrich community celebrations of jubilees, birthdays and other festivities by means of the beautiful poems she wrote.

From 1986-2004, she collaborated in the production of radio programs by helping the sisters responsible for the technical aspect of the work.

In 2004, she was transferred to the Città Regina community, São Paulo, where she dedicated herself serenely and wholeheartedly to community services, especially in the sewing room.

When Sr. Gabriella’s mother died in 1956, M. Thecla wrote her a message that is particularly apt today: “Let us prepare well for heaven,” Prima Maestra said, “by leading a holy life so that we will be happy at the moment of death. Life is a preparation for heaven so let’s be smart and not lose even the smallest merit! Let us pray for each other and always look on high to the beautiful eternity that awaits us.”

Sr. Gabriella truly traveled the path of Pauline holiness: in fact, the sisters with whom she lived saw her as a model of virtue and prayer. Her silence spoke more than words, and her acts of self-giving and affection expressed her great love for Jesus and her sisters. She died as quietly as she had lived: a heart attack at the dinner table today ended her earthly existence and opened to her the kingdom where justice and peace flourish. Christ our King, the Lamb of God foretold by St. John the Baptist, freed her from the “ancient slavery” in which humanity lives and prepared her for the upcoming celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 18 December 2018