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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that today, the Feast of St. Matthew, the Divine Master visited St. John of God Hospital, Pasay City, Philippines, to call to himself our sister:

**SILVESTRE LYDIA – SR. NAZARENA**  
**born in San Miguel (Iloilo), Philippines on 9 March 1926.**

Sr. Nazarena was a great Pauline missionary—a good and well-loved sister who literally consumed herself in carrying out the mission of the Institute. She entered the Congregation in Lipa on 4 July 1943 and immediately began to learn the bindery apostolate, putting together the little books that the sisters diffused on “propaganda” to the families. In September 1946, while still a postulant, she was sent to the United States and spent several months carrying out diffusion in the business districts of New York City. In March 1947, she began her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on the Feast of St. Joseph 1948. She then returned to the Philippines and continued the apostolate of capillary diffusion in the dioceses of Lipa and Manila.

But Sr. Nazarena’s apostolic travels and adventures had only just begun.... In the autumn of 1951, two months after the foundation of our first community in India, she and Sr. Paola Perez joined the four sisters who had initiated the Institute’s mission in that immense country. Their generosity was proverbial. They wrote: “We go everywhere, even to the poorest huts. If the people can’t read, then we leave them at least a picture of the Blessed Mother, to which they give a place of honor among their collection of deities.” Sr. Nazarena spent 5 years carrying out the propaganda apostolate very intensively in India, accompanied by the affectionate “presence” of Maestra Thecla, who from time to time sent her small messages, brimming over with love. In one of these, dated November 1951, she wrote: “You are fortunate to be carrying out the Pauline mission in India. Seek souls; help them get to know the Lord. If they love the Blessed Mother, she will lead them to Jesus.” The following year, Sr. Nazarena received another of these eagerly-awaited messages. This one read: “It doesn’t matter that you do not send me long letters. I need only a few words to understand you. I know you have a lot of good will and that you are doing everything you can to please Jesus. Am I right?” Indeed, Sr. Nazarena’s greatest yearning was to get to know Jesus more profoundly and to help others get to know him and his Gospel. This powerful motivation impelled her to walk long stretches of road under the blazing sun, toting heavy bags filled with books, striving to reach even the most remote houses, in keeping with the directive of the Founder. In 1956, after several apostolic visits to Calcutta, she had the joy of helping to open an FSP community there.

In 1959 Sr. Nazarena returned to the Philippines, where she dedicated herself with humility, joy and great apostolic spirit to different activities: she worked in the administration office in Pasay, in the book centers of Baguio, Lipa and Iloilo, and then carried out the service of superior in the communities of Iloilo and Pasay. Sr. Nazarena loved the Institute’s mission very much and was always ready to propose the Pauline vocation to the young women the Lord placed on her path. She was also ever-ready to carry out any service asked of her: from the kitchen to the sewing room, from the search for benefactors to pastoral work for vocations. Her quick footsteps revealed the conviction she carried in her heart: she never wanted to waste a minute of time because all her time belonged to the Lord and she wanted to use every moment of it for his greater glory.

Even in her senior years, Sr. Nazarena’s life was characterized by self-donation: first in the Marikina community and then in the Pasay City bindery. In 2013, she was transferred to the circumscription’s community for its sick and elderly members, to whom she loved to recount the many beautiful adventures of her life, sharing with them her serenity and love for the Pauline mission.

In the last weeks of her life, Sr. Nazarena developed a lung infection that hastened her long-awaited encounter with the Divine Master. Since she was instrumental in finding many vocations for our Congregation, let us entrust to her the young women of today, asking that she help them hear the call of the Master and respond to it generously and enthusiastically.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 21 September 2018