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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

With deep emotion, I want to inform you that at 4:15 a.m. today (local time), the Lord visited the Clinic of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in Antananarive, Madagascar, to call to himself our sister:

**VOAHANGIMALALA SR. FRANCINE**  
**born in Ambatolampy (Antananarive), Madagascar on 12 March 1970.**

Everything happened very unexpectedly: at the beginning of this month, Sr. Francine left the Generalate to return to Madagascar after having concluded the 2018-2019 Course of Formation on the Pauline Charism. Filled with the joy of life, she was eager to go back to her own country to share with her sisters the abundance of graces she had received in this time of deeper reflection and study. She left with us beautiful memories of her enthusiasm, spirit of collaboration and promptness to be the first to volunteer for various community services. In these days, she was visiting her family for a brief vacation. This past Monday, she unexpectedly felt very ill and hastily returned to Antananarive, where she was immediately hospitalized. The doctors said that she had suffered a stroke and that her condition was serious and irreversible.

It was thus that Sr. Francine ended her mission here on earth. She herself had written with conviction: “I realized that my purpose here in earth was to carry out a mission. I accepted the risk of following Jesus and decided to begin my journey by saying my first *yes* to him. We have to pay a price for everything that is worthwhile in life....”

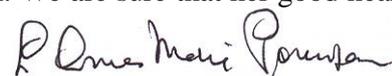
Sr. Francine entered the Congregation in the community of Antananarive on 2 September 1995. After a period of initial formation, she made her novitiate in Nairobi, Kenya, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 2001. During her Juniorate, she experienced the beauty of the Pauline mission through the book center and collective diffusion apostolates. She also took a 3-year course in theology. In 2007, she came to Rome to learn Italian so as to participate in the International Course of Perfection at Tor San Lorenzo in preparation for her final vows.

Sr. Francine’s vocation was reinforced by her desire *to live for the Lord 100%* and to make him known to the farthest bounds of the earth. She felt that the love of Jesus was urging her to do something beautiful and important. After making her perpetual profession in Antananarive on 29 June 2008, she was assigned to the community of Tulear, where she worked in the book center and carried out other forms of diffusion. In 2015, she was asked to carry out the Pauline mission in the Fianarantsoa district of Madagascar until the circumscription could open a community there. She willingly made the sacrifices necessary, joyfully dedicating all her energy to throwing wide the door to the Word in preparation for this new Pauline foundation. This past academic year, she participated in the international course on the charism of the Pauline Family, dedicating herself full-time to a deeper reflection on the Pauline values.

Sr. Francine was a good, generous and simple sister—a person capable of shouldering responsibilities and making sacrifices. A very hard worker, she once said: “The Lord has gifted me with a lot of physical strength and the desire to place it at the service of our sisters and the Pauline mission.” She wanted to be “an apostle in love with God and with people; an apostle with a docile and merciful heart that feels their thirst.” Sr. Francine was deeply devoted to M. Thecla, whom she entreated through ongoing novenas for the needs of all those who asked her to pray for them.

Overflowing with the desire to do good, she returned to Madagascar about two weeks ago, carrying in her heart the dream of dedicating herself to the formation of our Pauline Cooperators, so as to extend our charism to the laity and joyfully share with them the abundant riches she had received.

Now that she has flown to heaven, Sr. Francine has a long list of intentions to present to the Lord, including her beloved family, the Pauline mission in Madagascar and all the members of her circumscription, who are grieving her premature departure from this earth. We are sure that her good heart will obtain consolation and hope for everyone. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 19 June 2019