

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,

Today, the Feast of Pentecost, as the “joyful time” of the Easter season drew to a close, we learned that the Risen Christ had visited Santa Maria Hospital in Lisbon, Portugal to call to the eternal contemplation of his radiant face our sister:

SILVA DE JESUS ANGELINA ROSA – SR. MARIA TECLA
born in Arada (Porto), Portugal, on 11 November 1936.

The FSPs who visited Fatima for the Jubilee of the Pauline Family or other international gatherings certainly remember the festive welcome they received from our sisters of the Lisbon community and the exquisite cakes prepared with great artistry and love by Sr. Tecla. Simplicity, goodness, and industriousness were the distinguishing traits of this dear sister, who lived the demands of the Pauline vocation with a deep sense of responsibility and maturity, always ready to give first place to the needs of the community and its mission.

She entered the Congregation in the house in Porto on 28 May 1961. The following year she was sent to our Motherhouse in Alba to learn Italian. There, she worked in the technical apostolate while waiting to begin her novitiate in the community of Milan—a stage of her formation that concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1964. When she returned home, Sr. M. Tecla devoted herself with great zeal to spreading the Gospel and formation literature to the families and parishes in Porto, Lisbon, Funchal, and Madeira. She especially loved to organize Feasts of the Gospel, which at that time were celebrated in many of the dioceses of Portugal with the help and involvement of the laity. Sr. M. Tecla was a true teacher in the apostolate: she firmly believed that the protagonist of the Pauline mission is the Holy Spirit, and with that certitude she would confidently set out in a car overflowing with books, relying on Divine Providence to take care of everything, including finding her a place to sleep at night.

Sr. M. Tecla never completed her formal education, but like a true Pauline she took deeply to heart the Founder’s fervent recommendation to “learn from everything.” Consequently, she read continually so as to live up to the requirements of her mission and present our publications properly. In fact, everyone who approached her was impressed by her wisdom and intuitive responses to different situations.

Over the years, she carried out the roles of delegation counselor and local bursar. In Porto, Lisbon, Funchal, and Faro, she served as book center manager, and in Lisbon she was responsible for the storeroom and for shipping our publications all over the country. She would get up in the early hours of the morning to prepare the various orders that needed to be sent out so as to be free during the day to devote herself to household duties, especially the service of cooking. Her kitchen was the center of the community and in a certain sense it was also the center of the circumscriptions’ apostolic animation. Sr. M. Tecla’s encouragement of the sisters to “go out” was proverbial, and she was always ready to offer suggestions as to how to reach more people effectively through our apostolate.

In 2015, she underwent an operation in which her stomach was completely removed, and later two other operations for broken thighbones. Practically immobilized, Sr. M. Tecla was lovingly cared for day and night by her sister, Sr Lucilia. Another fall a few weeks ago, for which surgery was deemed inadvisable, led to her definitive encounter with God the Father today. Now that she is on the “other shore,” may Sr. M. Tecla truly penetrate and savor forever the wealth of God’s mysteries and intercede so that his Word may race ahead and reach every heart. Affectionately,

Rome, 28 May 2023
Pentecost Sunday

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan