

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

We received the news that at 1:30 p.m. yesterday (local time), our heavenly Father visited Our Lady of Grace Hospital in Curitiba, Brazil, to call to his eternal light our sister:

**ALVES DA ANUNCIAÇÃO LEONIDA – SR ANCILLA
born in Linha Tres (Santa Maria), Brazil on 18 July 1928.**

Sr. Ancilla entered the Congregation on 31 May 1946 in Porto Alegre, where, from the very outset of her formation, she dedicated herself to collective diffusion. In fact her vocation sprang from a meeting with two Daughters of St. Paul who were visiting her hometown on “propaganda.” Their habits were dirty and their faces tired and in that moment the young Leonida understood how worthwhile it was to use the instruments of communication to tell all people about the beautiful things about God recounted in the Bible.

In 1947, she was sent to Sao Paulo to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 8 December 1949, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. After working for several years in the shipping department, she spent 20 consecutive years (1953-1973) carrying out collective diffusion in Porto Alegre and adjacent dioceses. After taking a journalism course in Curitiba, she devoted herself with great passion to guiding animations on communications. From 1974-1980, she served as national secretary for the communications sector of the southern region of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference.

Transferred to Recife, she wrote programs for the radio sector and later, after a period of health care in the Cidade Regina community, Sao Paulo, she was sent to Belo Horizonte, where she carried out the book center apostolate joyfully and competently, considering it a “pulpit” from which to proclaim the Word.

Assigned to the Sao Paulo DM community, Sr. Ancilla worked in the community library and then returned to Curitiba, where she continued to guide animations on communications. At the same time, she dedicated herself to the book center mission—an apostolate that she felt enabled her to carry out to the full her vocation as a Daughter of St. Paul. Each month she visited all the local radio and TV stations and newspaper offices so as to make the Pauline presence felt in these areas and also communicate “the breath of the Church” to them.

Sr. Ancilla was a true communicator, expressing everything she said and did in apostolic terms. With this goal in mind, she dedicated much time and attention to perfecting her skills in the Portuguese language and the fruits of her efforts were manifested in her elegant way of writing, through which she touched the hearts of her readers. When she celebrated her silver jubilee of profession, she said that instead of listening to a homily during the Mass, she would have preferred to tell everyone about the wealth of her Pauline experience. On that same occasion, she gathered together a group of communicators so as to share with them this important moment in her life and exchange ideas concerning various apostolic projects. Because of this, she was known as a “model of communication in the Church.” In her later years, she took classes in communications at the local university so as to understand the media phenomenon more profoundly and become an ever-more competent and skilled apostle in carrying out the Institute’s mission.

An upright and observant sister, Sr. Ancilla was faithful to the teachings of the Founder and worked in every way to foster the development of the Congregation and promote new ways of carrying out its mission. She ardently desired that many young women would be drawn to the Pauline charism and dedicate themselves to evangelization so that the Gospel would reach everyone. Let us entrust to her all communicators, asking that they be messengers of the Good News, heralds of salvation, “living channels” that transmit hope and trust to everyone.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parezan
Superior General

Rome, 5 March 2017