

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

At about 8:00 p.m. yesterday, local time in Brazil, the Lord visited Evaldo Foz Hospital in Sao Paulo to call to “deeper waters” our sister:

BOFF TEREZA ADELINA – SR. AGOSTINHA
born in Maquinè (Porto Alegre), Brazil, on 11 December 1924.

Several months ago, Sr. Agostinha was diagnosed as suffering from cancer of the pancreas. The last stage of her life was characterized by intense suffering but she was surrounded by the affection of her sisters in religion, especially Sr. Caterina, who was also her sister by blood. A second sister, Sr. Clara, also a Daughter of St. Paul, died in 2007. Additional Daughters of St. Paul belong to the large Boff clan, a family with profound Christian roots.

Sr. Agostinha entered the Congregation in the community of Porto Alegre on 28 March 1948. She was 24 years old at the time and thus was considered a “mature vocation.” At that moment the Porto Alegre community was experiencing a great influx of vocations. Since the house was not able to accommodate them all, small wooden buildings were built on the property to serve as dormitories, study rooms, a typography and refectory.

Sr. Agostinha made her novitiate in Sao Paulo, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. Because she was an excellent cook and housekeeper, she was soon asked to take charge of the kitchen of the SSP community, a service at that time carried out by Daughters of St. Paul. After her perpetual profession on the Feast of St. Joseph 1956, Sr. Agostinha continued to perform precious community services. Besides working in the kitchen and carrying out the propaganda apostolate in Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, Curitiba and Recife, she also tended the large community vegetable garden for several years. Many sisters still remember the care she lavished on the fruits and vegetables cultivated on the extensive terrain of our Città Regina community.

In 1986, Sr. Agostinha was transferred first to Belo Horizonte (Turfa) and then to Curitiba. Her warm-hearted, cheerful and humorous personality emerged most prominently during celebrations held on the feast days of the sisters or of the Pauline Family. Her jokes, well-known throughout the province, lent a touch of lightness to community life.

An open and sincere person, Sr. Agostinha was always ready to share her thoughts and feelings with others. She deeply loved her vocation and closely followed the apostolic activities of her sisters, Sr. Clara and Sr. Caterina, who were carrying out the Pauline mission on other continents. Although she never left Brazil, Sr. Agostinha felt that she too was a missionary in the full sense of the word and was proud to belong to the Pauline Family. When she made her perpetual profession, she declared that she wanted to “strive consciously and wholeheartedly to carry out the will of God for his glory and the good of souls.” Sr. Agostinha lived this interior commitment throughout her life, even when it involved little gratification on the human level. Day after day, she dedicated herself to the simple duties of daily life, willingly fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to her by obedience.

And in these last months, she embraced her sufferings in the knowledge that they united her more intimately to the Passion of the Lord. Yesterday evening, at the invitation of Jesus, she left the “boat” of her life so as to allow him to lead her into the Land of the Living, where she is now eternally united to the Master she loved and sought all her life.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 2 September 2010