



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 11:45 p.m. yesterday (local time), our good Father visited the Méderi Clinic in Bogota, Colombia, to call to live in the everlasting hope of his kingdom our sister:

**BUITRAGO INES – SR. MARGARITA MARIA**  
**born in El Espino (Boyaca), Colombia on 18 January 1936.**

Sr. Margarita Maria entered the Congregation in the community of Bogota on 4 February 1958. After a time of apostolic experience in Cucuta, she returned to Bogota to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 8 December 1962.

From the beginning of her Pauline life, Sr. Margarita M. stood out for her spirit of prayer and recollection, as well as for the generosity and sense of responsibility with which she carried out every service. Her superiors emphasized that she never neglected the practices of piety, even though this sometimes involved sacrifice. Her goodness and simplicity, obedience and docility, were recognized and appreciated by everyone. Sr. Margarita M. was focused on the sole treasure, the sole wealth, of her life: the Lord Jesus, the Master who had consecrated her to himself and sent her to proclaim his love to everyone. On her part, she wanted to render always more concrete, by means of her whole life, the *offer, give and consecrate* she had voiced on the day of her profession. In her request to be admitted to perpetual profession, she wrote: “I am convinced that the Lord wants me entirely for himself and I want to respond with a sincere *yes*.”

As a young professed and at other periods in her Pauline life, she willingly devoted herself to household services, including the kitchen of the Bogota community. But she was happiest whenever she had the chance to perform the itinerant apostolate so as to communicate the beauty of the Pauline vocation to young women, get in touch with the people and wholeheartedly disseminate the Word that she welcomed every day with complete docility.

She carried out the “propaganda” apostolate with great passion in Cali, Barranquilla and Manizales. And almost all the FSP communities of her province can testify to her zeal and solicitude in serving the people, pastoral workers and members of the clergy who visited our book centers. Her attentive, helpful and warm presence was a gift for not only the communities in which she lived but also for the laity with whom she was called to collaborate. Sr. Margarita was always “on the go” but she was also a very contemplative person. She truly lived the mystical dimension of the Pauline life by seeking to nourish herself on Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life so as to be able to give him to others. She wanted to expand her heart to embrace the whole world, and to live *grafted onto and rooted in Christ*, in keeping with the example of St. Paul and the continual urgings of the Founder.

In 2007, Sr. Margarita M. participated with great fervor in the month-long course of Spiritual Exercises based on the alberionian text, “*Donec Formetur*.” Her entire being reverberated with the “abundant riches” she had received and she strove to communicate these gifts of grace to as many people as possible.

For the last two years, her health had been slowly declining. It caused her great suffering to have to leave the Cucuta community, in which she had lived for 8 years, dedicating herself tirelessly to the apostolate and to the well-being of the sisters, who loved her very much. In Bogota, she carried out small household services compatible with her physical condition. But in these last days her health took an abrupt turn for the worse. Last Sunday she was urgently hospitalized due to a serious lung infection but neither therapy nor surgery succeeded in unblocking her respiratory tract.

But Sr. Margarita M. was ready to be taken by the hand and led apart to receive the healing touch of her Master. We are sure that the light in her heart enabled her to see him clearly and rejoice in the great hope to which she had been called: to become God’s dwelling place forever.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 19 February 2020