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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

A few minutes after midnight last night, following a long agony in Concord Hospital, Sydney, Australia, one of our sisters “fell asleep in the Lord”:

DAL POZZO SR. ILIDIA MARIA
born in Parai, Brazil on 3 August 1934.

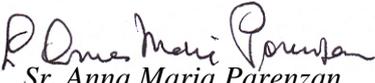
The life of our dear sister, who spent 56 years as an FSP in Australia, is a true mosaic of this vast country, composed of a wide spectrum of cultures and religions. A descendant of Italian emigrants to Brazil, she was the third of 12 children and entered the Congregation in the house of Porto Alegre on 21 September 1953. Here she continued her academic studies and, fired by the desire to do good, learned the art of printing. She made her novitiate in Sao Paulo, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1957. Because of her maturity and yearning for self-donation, she was chosen to go to the missions and spent some time in Rome before leaving for Sydney, Australia—a community that had been opened just two years earlier and was still going through the difficulties that went hand in hand with a new foundation. She arrived in Australia on 15 September 1958 in the company of Sr. Thecla Caruana, who had just made her first profession, and two other Pauline missionaries.

With great faith in the grace of her vocation, Sr. Ilidia first carried out the apostolate of visiting families and schools. On 24 May 1962, after the visit of Prima Maestra, she and three other sisters left for Adelaide to open a house there, and from 1965-1970 she served as superior of this community. At the end of her term of office, she returned to Sydney as postulant formator, a service which she carried out for various periods over the ensuing years. She also worked in the book centers of Adelaide and Melbourne, and in 1983 was asked to serve as superior of the latter community. In addition, she served as delegation councilor and vice-delegate for various governments of the delegation and for almost ten years held the office delegation bursar. From 1986 onward, Sr. Ilidia lived in Sydney, where she disseminated much love and goodness. Even though her health was declining, she disregarded her physical problems and continued to dedicate herself to many different services with great generosity and simplicity, animated by a true family spirit. She loved nature and had “magic hands”: everything she touched was transformed and became beautiful, good and harmonious. The sisters all remember the delicious meals, beautiful Christmas cribs, lovely chapel decorations and flower arrangements that she prepared with true artistry, affirming that they were a spiritual delight for everyone.

In 1995, Sr. Ilidia wrote to the Superior General: “I am accompanying the preparations for our upcoming General Chapter with prayer and above all with the desire to become a more patient and good Pauline, truly committed to our mission according to the needs of the times. At my age, a person sees things differently than she did before. However, my spirit remains the same, indeed it is even more vigorous and vibrant. It is not always easy to take things calmly and with the right dispositions, however, I make the effort to accept people and situations, to be patient and to strive to ensure that everything contributes to realizing the good. 1994 was a year of suffering, tragedy and mourning for my family, but now things have calmed down and the bonds of faith, solidarity, friendship and goodness have been strengthened among my loved ones. For me, this is a confirmation that God is always present as Father, Consoler, Friend and Brother.”

Several years ago, Sr. Ilidia underwent a heart operation and, like the strong woman she was, heroically bore the consequences of her heart problems for the rest of her days. Although her heart has stopped beating here on earth, it now throbs for all eternity in the heart of God, presenting to him the needs of the people of Australia, to whom she dedicated her life. Sr. Ilidia’s footsteps were truly “the footsteps of a messenger bearing the good news of peace.”

We are close to the members of our small Australian Delegation as they say their last farewell to a dearly beloved sister. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 8 August 2014