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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

Today, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, one of our sisters of the Cidade Regina community of Sao Paulo, Brazil, died unexpectedly:

**DE JESUS MARIA MAGDALENA – SR. ROSA MARIA
born in São Paulo, Brazil on 8 May 1913.**

Sr. Rosa Maria, one of our first Brazilian vocations, entered the Congregation in the community of Sao Paulo on 16 April 1933. Because the house had been opened just two years earlier, there were still no formation structures in place so Sr. Rosa spent her first years in the Congregation living with our sisters and sharing the poverty and struggles of the beginnings with them. Together with Sr. Faustina Giaretta and Sr. Paola de Simoes, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 20 January 1938. Immediately afterward she returned to Brazil, where she managed our Sao Paulo book center with great simplicity and love. Later she carried out the services of cook and driver for several years in the communities of Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre and Belo Horizonte. Following this, she returned to the book center apostolate in the communities of Pelotas, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. From 1970-1978, Sr. Rosa served as a missionary in Kinshasa, Congo, dedicating herself with generosity and a great spirit of sacrifice to the apostolate and to the service of driver. When she returned to Brazil, she was assigned to the Divine Master community of Sao Paulo, where she worked at the reception desk, in the sewing room and in the kitchen. In 1987, she was transferred to the Cidade Regina community, where she managed a small kitchen that became a kind of fraternal meeting place for the sisters.

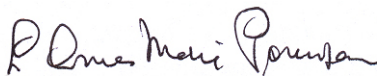
Wherever she went, Sr. Rosa sowed the virtues of humility and profound joy in the Pauline vocation. As a young sister, she had felt a little uncomfortable and perhaps also a little inferior to the other sisters because she was the only “black” face among so many “white” ones. But God blessed her by helping her discover and appreciate the wealth of her cultural heritage, especially in the form of its music, dances and ways of celebrating significant events. As time went by, Sr. Rosa learned to thank the Lord wholeheartedly for the gift of her black heritage. This spirit of thanksgiving became second nature to her—a hymn of joy for the many ways he continually enriched her life.

On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee of Profession, she wrote: “Fifty years joyously spent for the glory of God and the good of my brothers and sisters through our wonderful Pauline apostolate! They were years of great joy, hope and self-offering, with the joys far outnumbering the crosses. Because of this, I cannot help but thank the Lord for having called me among the Daughters of St. Paul. I also thank Primo Maestro and Prima Maestra for having accepted me into this Congregation.”

From 1987 up to her death, Sr. Rosa was a member of the Cidade Regina community. Here, she continued to serve the sisters in all the ways possible to her. She was especially happy when she was asked to help out with small activities pertaining to the direct apostolate. She also spent her time preparing quietly and in all simplicity for her definitive meeting with the Lord by cultivating an intense relationship with him and with the Queen of Apostles, who tenderly accompanied her throughout her life.

And today Sr. Rosa allowed herself to be immersed in the purifying waters of the Lord’s Baptism so as to re-emerge in the light of his resurrection. It is wonderful to imagine that the Father, contemplating this small but “great” Pauline, called her to eternal life with the words: “This is my beloved daughter with whom I am well pleased.”

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 9 January 2011