

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

We received the news that at 4:00 p.m. today the Divine Master visited the intensive care unit of Mother of God Hospital in Porto Alegre, Brazil to call to himself our sister:

DE MATOS SILVEIRA – SR. MARINA
born in Rio Pardo (RS), Brazil on 18 June 1936.

Everything happened quickly and unexpectedly: Sr. Marina suffered a stroke on 19 November and lapsed into a coma. Three days later, the Lord called her to heaven to sing her song of praise to the Lamb.

Sr. Marina entered the Congregation in the community of Porto Alegre on 9 January 1953. As an aspirant she worked in the bindery, where she became very proficient at the gilding press. She made her novitiate in Sao Paulo, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1957. As a young professed, Sr. Marina was assigned to the sewing room since she was an expert seamstress. From 1962-1972 she carried out capillary and collective diffusion of the Word of God in the huge Archdiocese of Sao Paulo. After this, she was transferred to our Rio de Janeiro book center and from there to the Città Regina House of Prayer, where she carried out a very competent service for several years. Next, she was transferred to northeast Brazil, a part of the country that she came to love deeply and whose people she served wholeheartedly through her work in the Fortaleza and Salvador book centers. The sisters who lived with her remember Sr. Marina's joyful personality, the enthusiasm and conviction with which she carried out the apostolate, her deep spirit of communion, and her ability to rise above problems with great faith. After a 3-year term as local superior in Brasilia, Sr. Marina resumed her book center activities in Belo Horizonte, Belem and Porto Alegre. Her talent for dialoguing with others and for presenting books best suited to different categories of people served her well in this apostolate. The book center was truly the "pulpit" from which she not only proclaimed the Lord to others but also communicated to them the joy she carried in her heart.

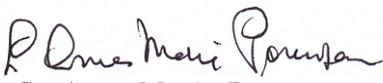
In Vitoria and Sao Luis, Sr. Marina served as community bursar and also local superior. Wherever she went, she was a presence of communion, peace, simplicity and service.

In February 2010, Sr. Maria was obliged to resign as superior in Sao Luis because of poor health. She was transferred to the Città Regina community, where she carried out household duties while at the same time undergoing treatment for a serious eye problem. She spent the last months of her life in her hometown, where she underwent a series of delicate eye operations in an attempt to restore her sight. She had been back in her community only a few days when she suffered a massive stroke. The readings from the Book of Revelation offered us by the Liturgy these days ("Those who remain faithful to the end will receive the crown of life") take on special meaning when we think of this dear sister.

In her 53 years as a Pauline, Sr. Marina was faithful to God through good times and bad. She followed Christ the Master, sought his face, and washed her garments in his blood, from which they emerged white as snow.

Now she has joined the members of the Pauline Family in heaven and together with them and with the great choir of apostles, martyrs and all those who proclaimed the Word, she has received the "white stone" on which her name has been written for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 23 November 2010