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Dearest Sisters,

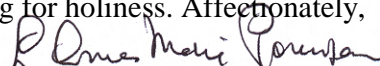
We received the news that this morning the Lord visited our community of Nazca (Buenos Aires), Argentina to call to himself a great Pauline apostle:

**ELLENA MARIA – SR. MARIA LETIZIA**  
**born in Farigliano (Cuneo), Italy on 17 June 1917.**

Sr. M. Letizia was always moved by the breath of the Spirit, who accomplished wonderful things in her life, certainly far beyond her expectations. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 27 Sept. 1932. After undergoing a period of initial formation, followed by the novitiate, she made her first profession on 20 August 1935 in the Motherhouse. The “surprises” of God were not long in coming: in August 1936, Fr. Alberione asked Sr. Letizia to help Sr. Nives Negri (who had also made her first profession a year earlier) to see to the needs of the people in the newly-opened Good Shepherd parish in Rome (the Founder’s plan to initiate the Institute of Jesus the Good Shepherd was already taking shape). On 7 Oct. 1938 Sr. Letizia, Sr. Maria Nives and several aspirants left for Genzano to launch the new Institute. For the next five years, Sr. Letizia helped to foster the growth of this new branch of the Pauline Family. In 1943, she returned to the Daughters of St. Paul, where she had the chance to deepen her vocation by attending theology courses held within the Congregation. In 1947, she received a teacher’s degree. Willing to let herself be guided by the Spirit toward new frontiers for the Pauline mission on the great American continent, in October 1947, she was sent to Staten Island (USA) to collaborate with the diffusion apostolate and collect offerings needed to initiate the FSP presence in Colombia. On 24 April 1948, accompanied by Sr. Imelde Toschi, Sr. Giovanna Vaschetto and Sr. Luigina Grandi, she disembarked in Barranquilla, Colombia to open the Congregation’s first community in this country. They were met at the dock by a SSP brother disciple, who took them to Bogota, the capital, and entrusted them the Salesian Sisters, whose hospitality they enjoyed for a month.

But God’s surprises in the life of Sr. Letizia were not yet over. After serving as superior of the Bogota and Manizales communities, in 1956 she was sent to Mexico, but not even this land dear to Our Lady of Guadalupe was to be her final destination. After a short stay in Rome, in 1958 she was appointed superior of the FSP community of Barcelona, Spain. In 1966, she served once again as superior of Bogota and then of our El Hatillo community in Caracas, Venezuela. And finally, in 1973, she reached her last mission territory: Argentina. With joy and enthusiasm, she poured the best of herself into the offices entrusted to her by divine Providence. As provincial bursar for two terms of office, she oversaw the centralization of the circumscription’s apostolic administration. She also served as local superior of the Oro (Buenos Aires) community, where she was attentive to the needs of every sister and transmitted to all a great love for the Pauline charism. Transferred to the Nazca community, she was placed in charge of subscriptions to *The Osservatore Romano*. In her ten years in this office, she worked hard to ensure that the “Pope’s newspaper” would have many readers and supporters in Argentina. With great punctuality she sent in administration reports to the Vatican, expressing her pleasure at collaborating with this work of the Church. In her senior years, Sr. M. Letizia dedicated her energies to serving with great love the other elderly members of her community. In 1998, she wrote: “Hang the laundry, iron it, clean rooms, buy bread and milk...and pray... Mine is a blessed life!” Sr. Letizia was bedridden for the last few years of her life as a result of Parkinson’s disease. She offered her sufferings for all the needs of the Congregation and of her province, asking God to help each sister grow in love for the Pauline vocation and in a great desire for holiness. She transformed her bed into an altar on which she silently and serenely immolated herself in self-offering to God.

To this dear sister, who dedicated herself to God with great simplicity, joy and love, we entrust in a particular way the Pastorelle Sisters, for whom she always nourished a great affection. Let us also ask her to pray that we might imitate her example in striving for holiness. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 23 August 2011