

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

At 7:35 p.m., local time, the Lord visited our Capri community in Mexico City to call one of our sisters by name and lead her into our blessed homeland:

ESCOBEDO DIAZ – SR. MARIA DE JESUS
born in Salinas (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) on 5 February 1932.

Sr. Maria de Jesus entered the Congregation in Mexico City on 6 February 1956 at the age of twenty-four. From the beginning, she contributed to the community through the gift of her maturity and sense of responsibility. After a period of initial formation, she made her novitiate in Mexico City, concluding it with her first profession on 20 August 1960.

As a postulant she had obtained a driver's license and had become an expert driver. All the sisters remember her in particular for this service, which she always carried out with commitment, generosity and love. From her earliest years as a Pauline she served our Capri community and its apostolic sectors in Mexico City by procuring everything necessary for the sisters' daily life and mission. In addition to this, her skilled fingers crafted altar linens or else mended the clothes of the sisters.

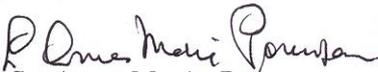
In 1972, Sr. Maria de Jesus was transferred to Leon and then to Ciudad Juarez, where she carried out the "propaganda" apostolate. With joy, she accompanied the sisters to various cities of the region, especially for Gospel Days and Marian feasts. She was especially happy when she could distribute copious copies of the Gospel, books about Mary or the saints, and catechisms. In Leon, she coordinated above all diffusion in the factories, dedicating 15 days to promoting the Family Magazine and 15 days to diffusion through book displays.

For about 15 years, Sr. Maria de Jesus served as the bursar of the Mexico City, Puebla and Monterrey communities successively. In Tijuana, Leon and Mexico City's Amatista community, she worked with great zeal and conviction in the book center apostolate. While she was stationed in the Amatista community, she rejoiced at the chance to pay frequent visits to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe so as to contemplate and dialogue with the Virgin she loved so deeply.

For the past 25 years, her physical condition had been steadily declining due to hypertension and serious heart problems. From 2009 on, Sr. Maria de Jesus was a member of the Capri community, Mexico City, where she carried out small services compatible with her precarious health. She did this up until six years ago, when her worsening condition obliged her to be transferred to the infirmary. In the last period of her life, she was confined to her bedroom, where she was lovingly assisted by the other members of her community. Her life was consumed like a candle—a gift which she offered each day to the Lord and which radiated the perfume of her goodness. Her caregivers say that upon entering her room, they were able to contemplate the beauty of a life offered to the Lord day by day in union with the Pauline mission.

Sr. Maria de Jesus grasped and lived the words our Founder addressed to the novices the year she made her profession: "The life of a Pauline sister," he said, "is complete if it is well lived: that is, if it is lived with great love for recollection and contemplation, and with immense love for our Pauline activities, in keeping with the example of Jesus and St. Paul" (FSP60, p. 238). Now that our sister is experiencing the eternal joy of heavenly banquet, may she intercede for our Congregation, and in a special way for the 18 young professed sisters who today, in Torvaianica, Italy, are beginning their preparation for perpetual profession.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 15 January 2018