

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

Our merciful Father has once again visited the Thecla Merlo community of Pasay City, Philippines, to call to himself our sister:

**FALLER CANDELARIA – SR. MARIA PIA
born in Hilongos (Leyte), Philippines on 5 February 1922.**

Sr. Maria Pia took her last breath at 1:30 p.m. today (local time). In spite of the fact that she had been receiving nourishment intravenously for several years because she could not eat solid food, her situation was not life-threatening. In fact, her unexpected death was the result of a heart attack.

Sr. Maria Pia's life can be summed up in the few lines she wrote when she celebrated her 25th anniversary of profession: "After God, I am deeply grateful to Primo Maestro, Prima Maestra Thecla and all my superiors. I can say that my religious life is a gift..." Sr. Maria Pia's life was also a gift for our Philippine Province and for all of us.

She entered the Congregation in Lipa on 27 June 1946, and for several years carried out the propaganda apostolate. She made her novitiate in Lipa in 1949, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. As a Junior, she lived in the communities of Cebu, Davao and Lipa, where she carried out the propaganda apostolate, worked at the linotype machine and also did a lot of knitting. She made her preparation for final vows in Lipa. Her letter requesting permission to take this definitive step is very moving. She wrote: "Prima Maestra, I believe that I am not only ready but filled with desire to bind myself to our Master and Lord with the three holy vows and thus be able to work wholly for him." This straining toward always greater intimacy with her Lord and Master marked Sr. Maria Pia's entire life.

After perpetual profession, she was assigned to the typography in Pasay City. Afterward she was transferred to Cebu and then to Davao, in both cases to work in the book center. In 1979, she served as local bursar of the Pasay community and then went on to carry out the book center apostolate in Naga, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod and Tacloban successively.

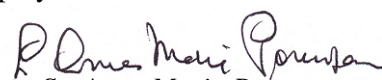
In 2004, Sr. Maria Pia returned to Pasay, where she worked in the bindery and performed various community services. In 2009, her declining health made it advisable to move her to the Thecla Merlo community where she could receive the care she needed. She was a model "patient" who never complained and who was always grateful for any service done for her, bearing with quiet strength her sufferings and the problems that went hand in hand with sickness and advancing age. She spent much of her time in chapel, praying for the many needs of the world and the Congregation.

The sisters who lived with Sr. Maria Pia say that she was both strong and sweet—a person of great determination, who was firmly convince of her Pauline vocation. She was not a talkative person but she clearly communicated her beliefs. Sr. Maria Pia deeply loved the Pauline mission. When she was fully active in the apostolate, she would prepare a variety of prayers on recycled paper to offer to everyone she met in the hope that the prayers would bring those people closer to God. She took advantage of offerings received to donate books to the poorest people she met.

Sr. Maria Pia was a serene and cheerful person with a perpetual smile on her face. She rejoiced above all to be with our young members and tell them stories about the past. She felt that she represented all humanity before the Lord. Several years ago, while still in good health, she would carry a notebook around with her to write down the names of people, including our sisters, in special need of prayers. And they were assured of them!

The life of this dear sister was rich in fruits of holiness, apostolate and love. We entrust to her our Chapter delegates who are returning to their circumscriptions in every part of the world to tell our sisters about what we experienced and what we have determined for the future of our beautiful Family.

With warmest best wishes to everyone and affectionate prayers,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 16 September 2013