

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

We received the news that at about 11:00 p.m. last night (local time), the Lord visited the Alberione community of our FSP complex in Pasay City, Philippines, to call to himself our sister:

GAMEZ ADELA – SR. M. CRISTINA
born in Burauen (Leyte), Philippines on 10 September 1933.

Sr. M. Cristina was called to her eternal reward on the eve of the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, while the superiors of all our circumscriptions, gathered together for an enlarged council meeting, were in the midst of approving the project for redesigning our presences throughout the world. Through the mysterious plan of divine Providence, Sr. Cristina, whose serious physical condition reinforced her love of the solitary life, found herself at the moment of death in the “heart” of the Congregation, surrounded by the affectionate remembrance and prayers of our sisters representing the whole FSP world.

Our sister entered the Congregation in Pasay City on 13 February 1955. After several years of formation, she made her novitiate in Lipa, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. As a young professed, she carried out an intense apostolate of diffusion of the Word of God in the dioceses of Manila and Davao. Records of the times recount that in just one year our sisters of Davao visited 24,000 families. We can imagine how many propaganda bags overflowing with the Bread of the Word Sr. M. Cristina carried!

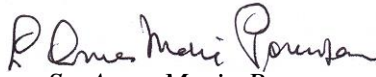
In 1964, the year that Prima Maestra Thecla died, Sr. M. Cristina went to Italy to prepare herself for her perpetual profession. Afterward, she was assigned to the Albano community where she carried out various nursing duties.

In 1968, she returned to the Philippines and spent the next few years in the communities of Pasay, Olongapo and Cagayan de Oro, where she generously carried out a variety of apostolates such as propagandist, sacristan and gardener. Sr. M. Cristina’s life was marked by both physical and moral sufferings. At different times she asked for and obtained periods of exclaustation or absence from the community, during which she devoted herself to the care of her elderly and ailing mother. From 1977 on, she was a member of the Regina Apostolorum community of Pasay, where she carried out various services in the technical apostolate compatible with her fragile health. Nor can we forget Sr. M. Cristina’s love of music.... Her transcription of our Pauline prayers into music reinforced her strong relationship with the Lord. She was also deeply devoted to the Holy Family, whom she contemplated in the mysteries of the rosary. She liked to imagine and design in a simple way scenes of the infancy of Jesus, feeling particularly drawn to the mystery of his hidden life in Nazareth.

Several months ago, it was discovered that Sr. M. Cristina was suffering from cancer of the uterus. She refused to undergo the treatments recommended for her condition, but in spite of her sufferings this last period of her life proved to be a very rich and significant one for her. Little by little Sr. M. Cristina opened her heart to accept the love of the sisters around her—a love that enriched her and made her ready to embrace the will of God. In fact, in these last months the Lord transformed her life into a masterpiece of grace and beauty.

While at this moment the heart of the Pauline Family is focused on the great Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Sr. M. Cristina already beholds the full revelation of the Master’s light and peace. We like to think that the light of Damascus flooded her life, purified her gaze and opened her entire being to the splendor emanating from the face of the risen Christ.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 24 January 2009