



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that yesterday, the first day of May, at 7:30 p.m. (local time), the Blessed Mother visited our Capri community of Mexico City, to accompany to eternal life our sister:

GARCIA MARTINEZ BEATRIZ – SR. MARIA LILIA
born in José Grande Tecario (Tacambaro), Mexico, on 25 December 1940.

Sr. M. Lilia belonged to a simple, profoundly Christian family of eight children. One of her younger sisters, Sr. M. Guadalupe, followed in her footsteps and also entered the Pauline religious life. From her family environment, Sr. M. Lilia had inherited a tender devotion to the Blessed Mother, to whom she turned with childlike simplicity, especially through the prayer of the rosary, the beads of which slipped continually through her fingers.

She entered the Congregation in the house of Mexico City on 3 March 1959. Given her human and Christian maturity, she was soon admitted to the novitiate and made her first profession in that community on 8 December 1962, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Afterward, she dedicated herself for about 15 years to holding book displays with great fervor and creativity in every part of the country. Overcoming her shyness, she also visited markets, factories and other work places, leaving a word of hope and a reminder of the Faith with everyone.

As a driver, she traveled the regions of Jalisco (Guadalajara), Mexico DF, Chihuahua (Ciudad Juarez) and Puebla, and also welcomed visitors to our book center in this last-mentioned city. While stationed in Mexico City, she had the chance to participate in the big book display organized for the 2nd International Marian Congress.

After spending several years taking care of our sick sisters, Sr. Lilia returned to the book center apostolate in Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, the Amatista community in Mexico City, and Leon. Afterward, she carried out various community services such as cook, bookkeeper and household maintenance. Sr. M. Lilia was a very down-to-earth, simple and wise sister who was able to use her practical skills to generously and lovingly meet the needs of the communities in which she lived. She never spared her energy, especially when it came to assisting our sick sisters—a service she carried out with great kindness and discretion. She did not talk a lot, but her presence and commitment to her responsibilities were more eloquent than lengthy discourses.

Since 2007, Sr. M. Lilia had been living in our Capri community in Mexico City because she herself was in need of medical care for a situation that was getting worse day by day. In fact, she was suffering the consequences of the removal of a tumor: the follow-up chemotherapy had worsened her already very complex clinical situation of hypertension, diabetes and Parkinson's disease. But despite her fragile health, Sr. M. Lilia was a serene and gentle presence in the community and was always very grateful to the nurses who took care of her. Her thoughts were focused on "La Morenita"—the affectionate local term for Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas—who is deeply venerated by all the people. Sr. M. Lilia had learned this devotion as a child and it strengthened over time, especially when she had the chance to work in the FSP book center located very close to the Sanctuary. And we are convinced that on her deathbed "La Morenita" repeated to her the words she had addressed to Juan Diego—words that have consoled and strengthened the faith of millions of Mexican Catholics: "Am I not here—I, who am your Mother?" A cerebral embolism (stroke) ended Sr. M. Lilia's life yesterday evening.

Let us entrust our Evening Prayer of this 4th Sunday of Easter, dedicated to prayer for vocations, to Sr. M. Lilia, asking her to intercede for the young women and men who are searching for their path in life, so that they might receive the grace to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow him in simplicity and joy.

Affectionately,

Rome, 2 May 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan