

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

Today we received the news that at 12:30 p.m. local time, the Lord visited our Città Regina community in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself our sister:

GIARETTA PARODI NATALIA – SR. FAUSTINA
born in Itatiba, Brazil on 24 December 1916.

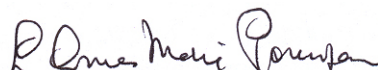
Sr. Faustina was one of the first Brazilian young women to enter our Congregation. She arrived in the Sao Paulo community on 4 June 1934 as a result of having read the biography of Maggiorino Vigolungo, which she had obtained from FSP propagandists who visited her hometown. She made her novitiate in Rome, Italy, concluding it with her first profession on 20 January 1938. Afterward, she returned to Brazil and enthusiastically dedicated herself to diffusion of the Word of God, especially through the book center apostolate, which she carried out in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Uruguayana and Lins. From 1950-1961, she was the manager of our very up-to-date Porto Alegre book center, located in one of the busiest parts of the city. Following this, she once again had the chance to express her great creativity, this time in the Sao Paulo book center (1963-1971), especially by preparing window displays and promoting various “campaigns,” including one aimed at setting up lending libraries in prisons. Because of her joyful spirit, sociability, openness to others, readiness to do whatever needed to be done and ability to involve others in many apostolic activities, Sr. Faustina was truly the “heart” of every book center in which she worked. Visitors to the center were always struck by her friendliness and returned frequently because of the welcome she gave them and the service she provided. Sr. Faustina was not only a wonderful example of how to carry out the book center apostolate but she was also an enthusiastic vocationist. In 1975, she wrote to M. Ignazia Balla: “I rejoice in my Pauline vocation. The *yes* I said with all my heart on the day of my first profession, I renew every day when I receive communion, and with the same love. I want to be faithful to my vocation up to death. I deeply love the Congregation, the Pauline apostolate, my superiors, our Founder and Prima Maestra Thecla.”

When she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of profession, she confided: “Fifty years spent for the glory of God and the good of people through the apostolate seem like a lot. But from the Lord’s perspective, they are like a single day. On my part, they were years of great joy, hope, self-offering and also quite a bit of suffering. Crosses are nothing new for someone who has freely and consciously chosen the religious life. But the joys outweigh the crosses. That is why in preparing for this Jubilee I was filled with gratitude to the Lord for having called me and also to the Congregation for having accepted me. I ask the Divine Master to give me the strength I need to continue to offer myself to him completely.”

The Pauline book center, which Fr. Alberione considered to be the center of all the community’s initiatives, was the place of Sr. Faustina’s daily self-offering to the Lord, the place where she joyously served him in her brothers and sisters. As she grew older and her health became more fragile, she had to slowly cut back on her intense activities, but she continued to manage the Città Regina book center for as long as her strength permitted. Afterward, she followed its activities from home. In welcoming sisters and guests to the Città Regina community, she took advantage of every opportunity to witness to the beauty of being a Pauline. And up to the end of her life she continued to collect books and study aids to donate to prisons and to the poor.

Sr. Faustina’s “baggage” for her great trip to heaven consisted of a wealth of self-offering and good works, liberally laced with good humor. We are sure that she will not remain idle in heaven. From there, we know she will find many opportunities to encourage and accompany her sisters here on earth, communicating to all her own peace and hope.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 16 June 2010