

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 9:25 p.m. today (local time), one of the members of our Taipei, Taiwan community, hospitalized in the city's Cardinal Tien Hospital, was called to eternal life:

GONZALEZ SR. FEDERICA
born in Numancia (Surigao), Philippines on 5 March 1938.

Like the widow in today's Gospel, Sr. Federica always gave God her all, in sickness and in health, in the enthusiasm of her youth and in her mature years. Day after day, she faithfully lived the words she had said when she made her profession: "I offer, give and consecrate myself to you."

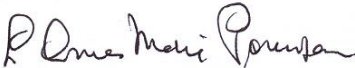
Sr. Federica entered the Congregation in Pasay City, Philippines on 17 May 1957. She made her novitiate in Lipa, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 8 December 1962. In requesting permission to make her profession, she wrote that she ardently wanted to consecrate herself to the Lord and to reach a high degree of sanctity. She also told Prima Maestra Thecla that she was ready to go to another country as a missionary. As a young professed she experienced the joys and fatigues of the "propaganda" apostolate in the dioceses of Davao and Cebu, Philippines. After making her perpetual profession in Pasay, she worked for a short time in our Vigan book center and then, in 1969, joyfully welcomed the call to go to Taiwan as a missionary.

For the rest of her life, she lived the Pauline mission in Taipei, Kaohsiung and Taichung—our FSP communities on this island. Sr. Federica was a joyous, convinced and tireless apostle who carried out capillary and collective diffusion and also worked in the book center and bookkeeping sector. She served as local superior in Kaohsiung for two terms of office, and as local superior in Taichung for 4 non-consecutive mandates. She was always attentive to the needs of the sisters, who considered her to be their "big sister." Over the years, she strove to get to know and live the Pauline vocation always better, participating with great benefit in a 3-month course of deeper study on the charism and in the month-long course of spiritual exercises on *Donec Formetur*.

Open and straightforward by nature, Sr. Federica was able to see the positive aspects of every situation. Especially after she discovered that she was suffering from an aggressive form of breast cancer, for which she underwent surgery in January 2015, she would spend long hours in chapel in deep conversation with the Lord and with Mary, Queen of Apostles, to whom she was particularly devoted. But even during the years in which she was fully involved in the direct apostolate, she had cultivated the habit of waking up early so as to spend the first hours of the day before the Lord, offering him all the people she would meet in the book center, at book displays or on capillary diffusion. Sr. Federica loved to read and she kept updated about Church and world events through the news reported in various parish bulletins, which helped her understand the situations people were going through and the missionary context in which she lived. She was a good-hearted, serene and joyous person who lived in peace with others and spread unity, love and kindness around her. She had a special love for the younger members of the Institute, whom she sought to encourage, offering her prayers and life for their perseverance.

Last year, the cancer that had undermined Sr. Federica's health reawakened and spread from her breast to her bones and lungs, making it necessary for her to undergo both chemotherapy and radiotherapy. She faced her deteriorating situation peacefully, accepting this new call of the Lord with simplicity and without complaint. Sr. Federica spent the last days of her life in a deep coma and it was from that state that the Lord called her to participate in the wedding feast in heaven. We are sure that she will continue to carry in her heart the young women of Taiwan and Vietnam who want to get to know the Pauline life better because they are the future of our Pauline mission in those lands blessed by the Lord.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 27 November 2017