

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

We received the news that at about 2:30 p.m. yesterday, the Lord visited San Camillo Clinic, Buenos Aires, Argentina, to call to her eternal reward our sister:

KESSLER SR. DELFINA
born in Crespo (Entre Rios), Argentina on 23 November 1919.

Sr. Delfina's large family, emigrants from Germany, was profoundly religious and from her earliest years she was formed to Christian values, a spirit of sacrifice and hard work. She came to know the Daughters of St. Paul through their propaganda apostolate and felt an immediate call to share their life. She entered the Congregation in Buenos Aires on 21 November 1940 at the age of 21. After a period of initial formation, during which she began to learn the art of making books, she made her novitiate in San Miguel under the guidance of Sr. Brigida Perron. She made her first profession on 20 August 1944 and for the next 15 years carried out capillary diffusion of the Word of God in the communities of Rosario and Santa Fe.

In 1951, the sisters of the Santa Fe community wrote in their annual apostolic report: "We have intensified propaganda in the dioceses, diffusing 93,540 books and making 7500 subscriptions to *Familia Crista* magazine. We also distributed 956,000 religious pamphlets and leaflets. We are currently preparing to hold two book fairs, one in St. George Parish, and we hope they will turn out well."

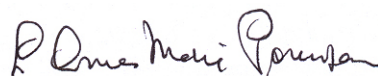
Sr. Delfina was filled with great passion for the Pauline apostolate and a great love for Fr. Alberione and Maestra Thecla, whom she got to know during their various visits to the FSP communities of Argentina. She treasured a holy card Prima Maestra wrote to her in 1952. Inscribed on the back of it was the simple message: "I spent Easter in New York. My trip was good from beginning to end. *Deo gratias* for your prayers for me. Seek to please the Lord more and more. I pray for you every day. May the Lord bless you abundantly! Heartfelt best wishes."

From 1956 on, and then from 1972 on, Sr. Delfina carried out various household duties—especially that of cook—in the communities of Tucuman and Nazca (Buenos Aires): more than 40 years of dedicated service to her sisters. She performed her kitchen duties with great love and generosity but also with sacrifice because it was not a work that appealed to her. During the last years of her life she helped out at the community's reception desk, in the laundry room and also made small plaster statues of Baby Jesus that were diffused through our book centers.

Sr. Delfina's serene and sweet expression, illuminated by frequent smiles, revealed her complete self-surrender into the hands of the Father and the intimacy she lived with him, nourished through abundant prayer. In her simplicity and humility, she transformed her life into a pleasing offering to the Lord, rendering it even more precious in the two weeks before her death through the acute sufferings she experienced due to a bad case of pneumonia that severely dehydrated her.

Immersed as we still are in the climate of Christmas, the life of this dear sister brings us the fragrance of simple and good things—the sweet perfume of Bethlehem and Nazareth. Consoled by today's Liturgy, we are sure that Sr. Delfina has already received the spirit of wisdom, that she has reached a more profound knowledge of the Father and that, as St. Paul assures us, she is already experiencing, in union with the many brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family in heaven, the treasure of glory promised her as a heritage.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 5 January 2014