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Dearest Sisters,

Early this morning, the Lord unexpectedly visited our community of Lubumbashi, Congo, to call to eternal life our sister:

**KOVALSKI SR. VERONICA**  
**born in Marquez do Herval (R.G.S.), Brazil on 26 June 1931.**

Sr. Veronica was preparing to leave for a well-merited vacation in Brazil. She had just received the sad news of the death of her dear friend Sr. Rosa De Jesus, with whom she had lived for several years as a missionary in the Congo. All was in readiness for Sr. Veronica's departure when the Father stepped in to change her itinerary, revealing that, in keeping with his inscrutable plans, heaven—not Brazil—was her final destination. Sr. Veronica had been in the Congo for 52 years: in fact, she arrived in 1958, just a few months after Sr. Giuseppa Panarello and Sr. Basilia Bianco opened our first FSP community in Kinshasa. With great faith and joy, she left the familiar environment of her homeland for an unknown continent because, having concluded the first stages of her formation journey with her perpetual profession, she was now ready to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to the missions.

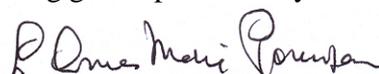
Sr. Veronica was the daughter of immigrants: her father was from Poland and her mother from Italy. From her family, she had inherited a great love for all peoples and the desire to take the Gospel to everyone. It was with this yearning in her heart that she entered the Congregation in Porto Alegre, Brazil on 21 January 1949. She often said later that even at the outset of her religious life she knew that she had taken the right step. She carried out her first apostolic experiences in Belo Horizonte and Sao Paulo and made her novitiate in the latter community, concluding it with her first profession on 25 January 1953. Afterward, she dedicated herself to taking the Word of God to families and businesses. All this served as a "trampoline" to launch her toward an African country that would soon be convulsed by civil war (1960).

Sr. Veronica participated in the foundation, development and progress of the FSP presence in the Congo. She lived in the communities of Kinshasa and Lubumbashi alternatively, carrying out various duties: propaganda to families and businesses; book center work; accompaniment of the postulants; service as superior of the Kinshasa community for a number of terms; delegation councilor. From 1999-2003, she was assigned to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and she also spent several months in Italy where she took an updating course at the Gregorian University. Most recently, she was in charge of our audiovisual productions in Kinshasa. It was just this past June that she returned to Lubumbashi to manage our very busy book center, which serves as a central point for the evangelization and cultural promotion of the people of Katanga province.

The sisters who lived for many years with Sr. Veronica say she was a woman of great faith, enthusiasm and joy; a woman who passed among them "on tiptoe"; a true missionary who was sensitive to the situations of the people and who was also very close to the families of our Congolese sisters. For our young women in formation, she was both mother and sister, always ready to reinforce what she taught them through the concrete witness of her life. One of our Congolese sisters writes: "Veronica will always remain in our hearts; she will continue to live here in the Congo."

The Lord has granted this dear sister of ours the grace to be buried in the Congo, which she loved so much: a land of broad rivers and immense forests teeming with life. In this way, Sr. Veronica will be a Pauline "seed" that will bear abundant fruit and will continue to narrate to future generations the beauty of a life dedicated to spreading good up to the very end.

Affectionately,

  
 Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
 Vicar General

Rome, 10 January 2011