

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

We just received the news that at 2:25 p.m. today (local time) the Divine Master visited the emergency department of Cagayan de Oro Medical Center, Philippines, to call to himself our sister:

LACKAR SR. PAQUITA
born in Mambajao Camiguin (Cagayan de Oro), Philippines on 18 February 1935.

It all happened very unexpectedly. On 5 February, Sr. Paquita said she did not feel well and was taken to the Medical Center for a check-up. Tests revealed that she was suffering from cancer of the pancreas, already at an advanced stage. In just two days Sr. Paquita's condition worsened and she made the abrupt transition from intense apostolic activity to contemplation of the face of God.

Sr. Paquita entered the Congregation in the community of Pasay City (Manila) on 18 June 1954. After a period of initial formation, during which she worked in the technical apostolate, she made her novitiate in Pasay, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1958. As a temporary professed sister, she carried out capillary and collective propaganda in the dioceses of Manila and Cebu.

In writing to ask for admission to perpetual profession in 1963, Sr. Paquita said she was aware of her weaknesses but that she had great faith in the Lord and was sure that he would give her the grace she needed, moment by moment, to do his will. She ended that very important letter with the words: "I hope to be a useful member of the Congregation."

Sr. Paquita was a dear sister who was very sensitive to the needs of others, and who offered herself to God day after day silently, joyfully and with great simplicity, competently carrying out all the services asked of her. In 1965, she joyfully welcomed the chance to go as a missionary to Taiwan. For the next 9 years she worked in the Taipei book center and also disseminated the Word of God to families and businesses. This beautiful period left an indelible mark on her life and opened her heart to the needs of the immense Chinese population.

In 1974, Sr. Paquita returned to the Philippines, where she was appointed superior of first the Davao and then the Naga communities—a service she fulfilled with a great sense of responsibility and of belonging to the Institute. Afterward, she carried out the book center apostolate in almost all the communities of the province: from Quezon to Pasay, from Cagayan de Oro to Iloilo, from Marikina (Manila) to Lipa, not to mention Cebu, Tacloban, Davao and Naga.

In April 2007, Sr. Paquita was transferred to Cagayan de Oro to carry out the "beneficenza apostolate" and to find benefactors for the radio and TV programs prepared by the members of that community. Our Pauline benefactors there all remember Sr. Paquita's kindness, her visits to the sick, her love for the Pauline mission, and her desire to find the economic help needed to enable the message of the Gospel reach as many people as possible through the modern means of communication.

We are sure Sr. Paquita could never have imagined that the Lord would call her to himself so quickly, just as we are sure her swift passage to eternity came as a great shock to the other members of her community, who certainly didn't expect such a thing either when they insisted that she see a doctor about her situation. Sr. Paquita was a person who never complained about her health and who bore all her problems quietly. But precisely on this Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Divine Physician healed our sister in his own mysterious way. With great love he approached her, took her gently by the hand, raised her to feet, took her illness upon his own shoulders, and led her to eternal joy.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome 8 February 2009