



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

At 3:30 this morning, just before dawn (local time), God the Father visited our Capri (Mexico City) community to call one of our sisters to contemplate the Light of life:

MARTINEZ DURAN MARIA DE LA LUZ – SR. MARIA ESTHER
born in Duarte (Leon), Mexico on 5 January 1931.

Sr. M. Esther entered the Congregation in Mexico City on 21 May 1955, the year dedicated to the Divine Master, in which the whole Institute was striving to make progress in all the dimensions of the Pauline life. For our sisters of Mexico, who were living the beautiful but difficult years of their foundation period, it was a truly fruitful year in which, with the help of their young women in formation, they were able to hold 12 great Feasts of the Gospel.

Sr. M. Esther made her novitiate in Mexico City, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. As a young professed, she diffused the Word of God to families and collectivities through the “propaganda” and book center apostolates, first in Puebla and then in Ciudad Juarez. In 1972, she was appointed superior of the Monterrey community. In that city, not far from the capital, the Pauline mission was expanding through the support of many friends and benefactors, who supplied the community with the things it needed. Even in those days, the sisters were already organizing cultural encounters in the book center, especially for Communications Day, enriched by the participation of writers and journalists. They also collaborated with the local radio station by presenting new publications to listeners or discussing topics of special interest.

Our sisters of Mexico remember Sr. Esther’s cheerful character, her talent in the kitchen and sewing room, and her kindness and helpfulness toward every person. In 1976, she was appointed bursar of the Capri (Mexico City) community and afterward was made superior of the Leon community. When her term of office ended, she returned to Monterrey, where she worked in the book center. Beginning in 1984, she served three consecutive terms as superior and bursar of the Amatista community in Mexico City. She loved this community, which was just a short distance from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Virgin so dear to the hearts of all the Mexican people, whom she fondly invoked as “Our Lady of Light” in memory of the name she had received at Baptism. Although bookkeeping took up a lot of her time, Sr. Esther was always ready to carry out the different forms of the Pauline apostolate in schools, factories, hospitals and parishes. She also participated very enthusiastically in Bible, vocation, Marian and book exhibits.

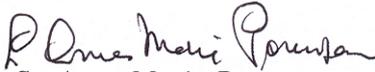
After finishing her third term as superior of the Amatista community, she served two more terms as superior of the Leon community. She then returned to Puebla, where she lived up until four years ago, when serious health problems obliged her to be transferred to Mexico City.

Sr. M. Esther left her mark on our Mexican Province by means of her goodness, her love for every sister and her bonds of friendship with our lay collaborators, especially the Pauline Cooperators, who help our sisters in thousands of different ways.

In the last six years of her life, Sr. M. Esther’s health steadily declined due to diabetes, senility and a form of Alzheimer’s disease that made it very difficult for her to communicate with others. The suffering this caused her could be seen in her eyes.

Let us entrust this dear sister to our heavenly Father, welcoming with renewed hope the invitation and promise of today’s Liturgy: “If you hearken to my commandments, your descendants will be like the sand.” Through the intercession of all our sisters who are part of the Pauline Family in heaven, let us ask the Lord to rekindle in us a faith that can work miracles with regard to grace, holiness, vocations and the apostolate.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 14 December 2012