

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 9:30 p.m. yesterday (local time), one of the members of our Queen of Apostles community, Boston, U.S.A., gently closed her eyes to this life at the end of a peaceful day:

MARTINEZ OLGA – SR. MARY GUADALUPE
born in Bebe (San Antonio), Texas, U.S.A., on 16 March 1936.

The oldest of eleven children, Sr. M. Guadalupe belonged to a hardworking Texan-Mexican family, from which she had learned the values of faith, hard work and sacrifice, but also an appreciation of celebrations and getting together to enjoy delicious south-of-the border food. She would recount, with a wealth of details, the story of her vocation, saying that many young men were attracted to her...but that her heart was already drawn by and promised to a single love: Jesus.

With an ardent desire to make a radical gift of herself to God, she entered our Congregation in the house of Boston on 21 April 1957. After a period of formation, she made her novitiate in that community, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. She yearned with her entire being to be a fervent, zealous and holy Pauline. In her letter requesting admittance to perpetual profession, she wrote: "I really like the spirit of the Pauline family, and also our beautiful and wonderful apostolate. I am happy and I thank the Lord every day for the many graces he is giving me to become holy."

As a temporary professed, she lived in the San Antonio (U.S.A.) community, where she carried out capillary and collective diffusion. After her perpetual profession on the Feast of St. Paul 1964, she worked for more than 20 years in the bindery of the technical apostolate in Boston, which gave her a chance to exercise her innate competence with machinery and where she also instilled in generations of FSPs a passion for that form of apostolate. With great satisfaction, she would present the first copies of each newly completed book to "Maestra Paula," the superior whom she loved very much and considered to be her mother and mentor. Sr. Guadalupe called these latest publications her "new babies." During that period, she was also in charge of the upkeep of the Boston community's extensive grounds. She took care of cultivating its wealth of trees, plants and flowers, with results that made her very proud.

In 1986, she resumed the Congregation's itinerant mission, alternated with book center diffusion, in the communities of Charleston, Staten Island, San Antonio, Chicago and St. Louis. After this, she returned to Boston for several years, and then was assigned once again to the book center apostolate, this time in San Francisco and Redwood City, California. Sr. Guadalupe loved life, nature and music. Her ardent heart vibrated for all things beautiful and for every person she met to whom she could communicate the joy of being a Pauline.

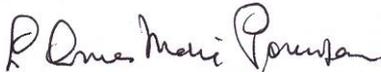
From 2006 on, Sr. Guadalupe lived in Boston, where she could receive treatment for a severe form of diabetes and also for congestive heart failure, which increasingly required her to depend on others for many things. But as long as her strength allowed, she made beautiful, colorful rosaries and was delighted to receive orders from people who admired her work. A great fan of Texan-Mexican music, she was very moved when, to celebrate her 60th anniversary of profession last year, the sisters surprised her by inviting to the event a Mariachi group, which serenaded her with her favorite songs.

She was deeply struck by the words of one song in particular, which voiced the plea: *One day at a time, Jesus: this is what I ask of you*. It was with this prayer in her heart that she lived the last year of her life, a period characterized by great suffering due to the progressive loss of her self-sufficiency and also her eyesight. She placed herself trustingly in the hands of her nurses, accepting her loss of independence with courage and faith, and striving to start each day afresh, in a spirit of continual conversion.

Today, we join Sr. Guadalupe in her hymn of love to the Lord—a Love that drew her all her life and that touched every dimension of her being; a love that made her repeat often, in heartfelt tones, the words of the Apostle Peter: "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you."

Affectionately,

Rome, 25 April 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan