

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 about 10:30 this morning, the risen Christ visited St. John of God Hospital, Pasay City, Philippines, to unite to himself for all eternity our sister:

MONTECILLO PENAFRANCIA SR. MARIA NIVES
born in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines on 9 September 1939.

Sr. M. Nives was a sister who enriched our communities with her joy, hospitality, ready acceptance of others, and hard-working spirit.

After obtaining her high school diploma, she entered the Congregation on 7 April 1957 in the Queen of Apostles community, Pasay City. In 1960, she was sent to Lipa to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 8 December 1961. During her Juniorate, she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in the diocese of Manila. She had the chance to experience life as a missionary when she was sent to Taipei, Taiwan. She was only there for three years but that experience of universality left a particular mark on her Pauline life and gave her the chance to learn Chinese and Italian.

When she returned to the Philippines, she dedicated herself primarily to the book center apostolate, carried out in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Pasay City. We can imagine that she worked with arms open wide to everyone: bishops, priests, seminarians and the laity, all of whom she enthusiastically welcomed and many of whom became fervent and dependable collaborators and benefactors thanks to her missionary zeal.

Sr. Nives served as local superior for diverse mandates in Cebu, Baguio, Naga and the Alberione community of Pasay. In carrying out this service, she was attentive to the needs of the sisters and also wanted the houses she lived in to shine with cleanliness and good order. As a superior, she was generous and big-hearted, and FSPs who on different occasions had the chance to participate in international meetings held in Pasay remember her warm hospitality, spirit of availability and the climate of festivity that she created around her. For everyone, she was the extended arm of Providence...always trying to ensure that the best local fruits were never lacking and that the sisters had everything they needed to make their sojourn in the Philippines an unforgettable experience.

In 2006, Sr. Nives was transferred to Cebu and from there to Cagayan de Oro, where she continued to be a true apostolic “magnet” for our book center clients, all of whom were deeply impressed by her attention to their needs, positive outlook, serenity and desire to extend the Pauline mission to as many people as possible.

About 4 years ago, Sr. Nives was assigned to the Provincial house, where she was asked to take on the service of accompaniment and of maintenance of the Thecla Merlo community, home to the province’s sick and elderly sisters. Sr. Nives did not neglect anything in her ongoing work of animation, illuminating the house with her joy and serenity. She was admitted to nearby St. John of God Hospital on 29 January because she was worried that her memory was failing her. But the underlying problem turned out to be a lung tumor that had extended to her brain.

We thank Sr. Nives for her love for the Congregation and all its members, for her wholehearted dedication to them, and for the optimism she irradiated to everyone.

“Born to new life in the waters of Baptism,” the “day of salvation” arrived for our sister this morning—the opportune moment for her to “proclaim the mighty deeds of the Lord, who calls us from darkness into his marvelous light” (cf. 1 Pt. 2:9).

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 25 April 2019