

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

At 4:30 a.m. today (local time), the memorial of the Presentation of Mary, the Divine Master visited our community of El Hatillo, Venezuela to call to the eternal wedding feast our sister:

**MONTERUMICI GIULIA – SR. LUCIA**  
**born in Sant’Ambrogio V.P., (Verona), Italy on 30 July 1920.**

The picture of Sr. Lucia that will endure in the story of our Congregation is certainly the one taken at the airport of Valencia, Spain, in which she appears with Maestra Thecla in one of the best photographs taken of her. The year was 1960 and Maestra Thecla was concluding one of her last visits to our sisters of that country. The picture is very significant because it sums up the missionary life of Sr. Lucia: her maternal presence in the different communities she was called to accompany, and her love for Maestra Thecla, from whom she had inherited a great spirit of faith and profound fidelity to the Pauline charism.

Sr. Lucia entered the Congregation in Rome on 25 May 1939, after having obtained a diploma in teaching. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1942. As a Junior, she attended philosophy and theology classes within the Institute. After her perpetual profession on 19 March 1947, she was made assistant novice mistress. It was a time in which 2 novitiate groups were being formed contemporaneously and Sr. Lucia was asked to help novice mistress Sr. Nazarena Morando with the formation of the Grottaferrata group.

After a short time in Verona, she was sent to Barcelona, Spain on 12 July 1950 to carry out the service of local superior. From that time on, she spent the rest of her life in continual self-donation as a Pauline missionary appointed to guide various communities and circumscriptions.

On 7 April 1956, Sr. Lucia opened an FSP community in Madrid. After kissing the ground, she and Sr. Raffaella entered the little house of San Fernando de Henares, which was surrounded by flowering apple and peach trees. A few days later, she wrote to the sisters she had left in Barcelona: “We reached our little house safe and sound and asked our Lady of Pilar to bless you with many graces. Thank you for everything you sent us: we immediately put it all to good use. As soon as we arrived, we dealt with the bed situation as best we could. I have to admit that one sister’s bed consisted of two benches pushed together and in the middle of the night the benches separated, tumbling the sister to the ground, but she didn’t even wake up! You can imagine how hard we laughed! I am writing this letter on a crate, which serves very well as a desk. In spite of the inconveniences, we are all very happy and serene because we feel like we are in the little house of Nazareth...”

On 7 January 1957, Sr. Lucia was appointed Delegation Superior of Spain. On 10 November 1963, she left for Buenos Aires, Argentina to serve as local superior of the Nazca community. In 1970, she was appointed superior of the La Paz, Bolivia, community. In August 1971, she was appointed Provincial Superior of Argentina and then local superior of the Sarmiento, Buenos Aires community, while contemporaneously serving as a provincial councilor. In 1978, she was once again appointed provincial superior of Argentina, which had by then expanded to include Uruguay.

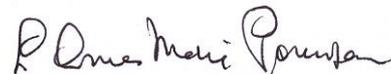
In 1980, the Lord asked Sr. Lucia to make another detachment, namely: to leave Argentina for Venezuela, where she served as Delegation Superior and at the same time as superior of the community of El Hatillo (Caracas) for two mandates. Following this, she served as Delegation Superior for more than 25 years (from 1990-2013). Fifteen years ago, she herself urged that a younger sister be appointed to this office.

Sr. Lucia continued to be a mother to every sister up to the very end of her life, irradiating around her the wisdom and love with which the Lord had enriched her life. Even in her final years her mind was very clear, allowing her to serve her community in a multitude of ways ranging from help in the administration office to the correction of page proofs, the preparation of meals and service at the reception desk. In addition to all this, she continued to offer the sisters support and encouragement through the difficult times resulting from the country's political turmoil and various natural disasters. Sr. Lucia was a living testimony of the Pauline charism—a silent and industrious, wise and gracious presence in her delegation and a point of reference for all its members.

In the last stage of her life, her heart began to give her problems due to a serious form of leukemia, which was only discovered last July. She serenely and peacefully accepted a chain of hospitalizations, each followed by a return to her community, where she continued to share the life of the sisters. To the very end, she remained an outstanding example of self-forgetfulness and of how to communicate a positive outlook, understanding and love to everyone.

While we thank Sr. Lucia for leaving us the heritage of her witness to the Pauline life, we entrust to her intercession our Delegation of Venezuela/Puerto Rico/Dominican Republic, which has been sorely tried by suffering in the last few months. May God, our good Father, pour out on each of its members a flood of consolation and hope, and gift them with many beautiful vocations.

Affectionately,

  
*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
*Superior General*

Rome, 21 November 2017