

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

At 12:45 p.m. local time, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of the Thecla Merlo House of Pasay City, Philippines to call to the splendor of his glory our sister:

**PADRIGON LETICIA – SR. MARIA GREGORINA**  
**born in Manila, Philippines on 8 March 1934.**

We remember how swiftly and surely Sr. Gregorina's nimble fingers flew over the piano and organ keyboards. We remember the joy with which she animated community liturgies and played, with great solemnity, the Filipino national anthem on big feast days. Sr. Gregorina loved art and music even though, before entering the Congregation, she obtained a degree in chemical engineering and later received a Master's Degree in Business Administration. But over the years her scientific/commercial training proved to be a great help to her in the duties entrusted to her by divine Providence, namely, work in the teaching, administration and information technology sectors.

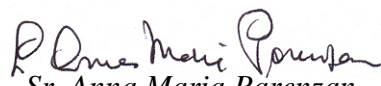
Sr. Gregorina entered the Congregation in the community of Pasay on 24 January 1959. She quickly became an expert at the linotype machine and at correcting page proofs. She made her novitiate in Lipa, concluding it with her first profession on 8 Dec. 1963.

As a young professed, Sr. Gregorina specialized in the printing apostolate and soon after was appointed head of the typography. Her serene and mature behavior, united to a great capacity to form solid friendships, enhanced her relations with her sisters and in particular with young women, who approached her very readily and whom she taught to give themselves to God with love and enthusiasm. It was precisely Sr. Gregorina's competence, simplicity and sociability that prompted her superiors to entrust her with the formation of the juniors for a period of time.

From 1975-1979, she served as provincial bursar. Afterward, she was sent to Bacolod, where she worked in the book center and also served as local bursar. Except for this 3-year period, Sr. Gregorina spent her religious life in the Pasay community, where over the years she held the offices of local councilor, group head, teacher, music director and computer programmer. But her heart was always ardently fixed on the only important thing in life: her coming meeting with her Spouse. In 2000, she wrote: "I am expecting him to come for me any day now and I want to reply, 'Here I am, Lord.' In spite of my weakness, he is preparing me for the beautiful day on which I will be united to him and his most holy Mother. I hope that this meeting takes place soon."

In 2004, Sr. Gregorina serenely accepted the news that she was suffering from Parkinson's disease. As the malady progressed, she was forced to withdraw little by little from the active apostolate and she also lost the ability to care for her personal needs. During the past year, she was hospitalized twice because of a urinary tract infection and pneumonia but she continued to accept the will of God in complete docility. Her caregivers were very edified by her gentleness and her ability to bear her sufferings so patiently. It was recently discovered that Sr. Gregorina also had an aneurism of the aorta. Because surgery was not possible, she returned to her community to peacefully await the call of the Lord, surrounded by the affection of her sisters. And today her great desire was fulfilled. With her characteristic smile, Sr. Gregorina entered into the light of the saints to sing hymns to the most high God so that many peoples, including her fellow country men and women, whom she deeply loved, would recognize the Child of Bethlehem as the Lord of the Universe and praise him eternally.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 7 January 2011