

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

Today, the vigil of the Assumption, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles, called to heaven to contemplate and sing the praises of God forever our sister:

**PARCO LOLITA – SR. MARIA CLAUDIA
born in Nabua (Caceres), Philippines on 20 December 1931.**

Sr. M. Claudia died in the infirmary of the Thecla Merlo community of Pasay City at 7:30 p.m. local time as a result of a cardiopulmonary arrest provoked by a lung tumor diagnosed last September. At that time, looking back on her vocation, she confessed that she had chosen to follow Jesus Master in the Pauline life in response to the urge to pray and offer her life for priests. And it is very significant that the Lord called her to unite herself more profoundly to his sacrifice precisely during the Year for Priests—a time in which the Church focused on the need to pray for all priests, asking that they might be holy, salt of the earth and light for the world.

Fired by the yearning to offer herself totally to the Lord, Sr. M. Claudia entered our Congregation in the community of Pasay on 28 September 1955. In the technical apostolate, she became an expert typesetter and she also diffused the Word of God with great love in the diocese of Cebu.

Along with 11 other young women, she made her novitiate in the Lipa community, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 30 June 1960. In June 2010, Sr. M. Claudia joyfully celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious consecration. As a young professed, she carried out capillary diffusion and worked in the book centers of Davao and Cebu. After her perpetual profession in Pasay on the Feast of St. Paul, 1965, she took charge of the library of the Archbishop of Manila and also worked at Radio Veritas—two services which she carried out for several years. From 1970-1974 she served as superior of the Kuala Lumpur community in Malaysia, where she also carried out the diffusion apostolate and prepared radio programs on a part-time basis. For several years she was also responsible for the Province's audiovisual department and the radio apostolate in Pasay City, Lipa and Legaspi.

Sr. M. Claudia was an expert library manager, a skilled seamstress and also a very competent proof-reader thanks to her years of experience at the linotype machine. But the sisters of her province remember above all her love for the radio and music apostolates. In fact, Sr. Claudia had a special gift for composing music and many of the hymns she wrote are still sung in our FSP communities and in the parishes, above all in the Bicol region. A few of these hymns are: the Hymn to Love, the Canticle of the Mass Media, the Beatitudes, a hymn to the Most Holy Trinity and many others that can be found on the Province's website.

When she was diagnosed as suffering from lung cancer last September, it seemed as if the disease was already in its last stages. But Sr. M. Claudia continued to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to her activities, including playing the organ for community celebrations. She lived the last months of her life peacefully and serenely, offering herself with full awareness to the Divine Master day after day.

When she made her first profession, Sr. M. Claudia told her superior that she wanted to be a missionary. Her bio-data reveals that she spent her entire Pauline life within the boundaries of her own Province but in reality her radio programs and music transcended those borders, gave “wings” to her life and allowed her to communicate the Word of God sweetly and gently through the beauty of the arts.

On this vigil of the Assumption, we like to think that Sr. M. Claudia has joined her voice to that of the saints in heaven in singing hymns of praise to Mary our Queen, seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General*

Rome, 14 August 2010