

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

The Lord of Life has once more visited our sisters of the Philippines. At 1:50 p.m. today (local time), he stopped by St. John of God Hospital to call to himself our sister:

**PIZARRO CONSTANCIA – SR. MARIA DOCILIA
born in Orion Bataan, Philippines, on 19 September 1934.**

Sr. M. Docilia entered the Congregation in Pasay City on 16 July 1955, after receiving her high-school diploma. She made her novitiate in Lipa, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. As a young professed, she carried out first the technical apostolate and then the diffusion apostolate in Vigan.

With great joy, she made her preparation for perpetual profession in Rome. This time made a significant impact on her Pauline life because at the conclusion of that important charismatic experience the Superior General asked her to go as a missionary to Pakistan. On 15 August 1965, she, Sr. Elisabetta Riboni and Sr. Donata Bugnola arrived in Karachi to open a community there. After working for a brief time in the diocesan typography, the sisters began to carry out the diffusion apostolate, while at the same time studying Urdu, the national language. Urged on by the pleas of the local missionaries, they were soon able to open a book center. From that “pulpit,” Sr. Docilia for decades carried out with great kindness and love the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and welcoming the poor.

Although she spent most of her 33 years of missionary activity in Karachi, she also lived for a short time in Lahore, where she was placed in charge of the technical apostolate and also served as assistant formator. The sisters who lived with Sr. Docilia remember her humility, her love for the young women in formation and her capacity for self-sacrifice and self-offering. Sr. Docilia truly believed that the Lord could touch and convert hearts through her daily gift of herself to him. In 1988, steadily-declining health obliged her to return to the Philippines but Pakistan always remained in her heart and she would have willingly returned to that country if her health had allowed this.

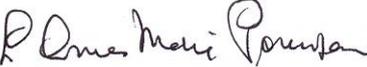
In Pasay City, she carried out the hospitality apostolate with her typical kindness, and then was assigned to the Tuguegarao community, where she worked in the book center for six years. In 2006, she was transferred to the Regina Apostolorum community in Pasay. As long as her health permitted, she dedicated herself to collecting funds for the Pauline mission, cultivating warm bonds of friendship with the many benefactors who supported the life of the community in different ways.

People were struck by Sr. Docilia’s spirit of prayer and her desire to dedicate all her energies to pastoral work for vocations. She was very attentive to the needs of the formators and formandees, who were drawn to her simplicity and to the joyous sense of belonging to the Lord that radiated from her entire being. Sr. Docilia also nourished a deep love for her family: a love that was literally “carved into her flesh” since years earlier she had asked and obtained permission to donate one of her kidneys to her seriously ill sister.

Although Sr. Docilia suffered from chronic asthma and lung problems, it was only two days ago that her situation took a serious turn for the worse. She was rushed to the hospital and from there went to peacefully meet the Lord, her face illuminated by her habitual smile. She went to the house of the Father taking with her the many intentions she carried in her heart. We are sure that among these were the people of Pakistan, for whom she had continued to offer her life, day after day.

We are especially close to our sisters of the Philippines/Malaysia/Papua New Guinea/Thai Province, who in this time have witnessed many of their members return to heaven. May these sisters be the “good seed,” which, sown in the ground, will obtain for the Congregation abundant fruits of holiness, vocations and apostolate.

With deep affection,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 4 November 2014