

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

At 7:48 this morning, the Lord once again visited our Filipino Province, calling to himself from St. John of God Hospital in Pasay City our sister:

**POLILLO JULIET – SR. MARIA NATANAELA**  
**born in Nagcarlan (Laguna), Philippines, on 7 October 1946.**

Even though she suffered from various diabetic and kidney complications, including a serious blood infection contracted in these last days, Sr. M. Natanaela left us unexpectedly. Illness had already visited her in 2001 when she accepted with great faith the diagnosis that she was suffering from cancer of the uterus. On that occasion, she said that the sufferings involved were a great gift to her because the Divine Master was putting the final touches on her life, shaping her as he would a clay vessel. Already at that time, Sr. Natanaela was offering her life for a multitude of intentions, including the Province's newly-inaugurated Communications Center, prostitutes, people suffering from AIDS, and women who were the victims of sexual abuse. With the attitude of self-surrender that was by then habitual to her, she placed herself in the hands of God like a child in the hands of its father, sure that the Lord could transform her life into a masterpiece.

Sr. Natanaela's ability to joyfully communicate with others was one of her most noticeable characteristics and several years ago, reflecting on her last day on earth, she told the sisters that she wanted a joyful funeral because death was a happy moment—it meant meeting the heavenly Father!

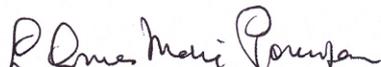
Sr. Natanaela entered the Congregation in Pasay City on 8 Dec. 1962. She underwent her initial formation and novitiate in Lipa, concluding the latter with her first profession on 30 June 1967. As a young professed she was sent to Italy, where she spent a time of study and apostolate in the communities of Rome, Massa, Alba and Pordenone. When she returned to the Philippines in 1970, she was made the assistant of the aspirants and at the same time carried out the diffusion apostolate in parishes and businesses.

She burned with a great desire to donate herself to others and asked the Superior General, Sr. Ignazia Balla, to send her to one of the poorest nations, in particular Taiwan or Pakistan. She wrote in 1977: "I want to go to the poorest country. I want to live poverty not only spiritually but also materially. I don't have a high level of education or intelligence, but what is needed to take the Gospel to others is a life overflowing with love and sacrifice."

For more than 5 years, Sr. Natanaela worked in our Pasay typography, where she ran the offset press very professionally. From 1981 onward, she dedicated almost all her time to governing duties and spiritual animation. She served as superior of the large Regina Apostolorum community of Pasay for two terms of office and afterward was appointed superior of the Provincialate community, and then of Lipa and Zamboanga. Afterward she served as provincial councilor for the apostolate for 2 mandates. In addition to this, she served as coordinator of the Pasay typography, postulant formator and member of the provincial commission for spirituality. Sr. Natanaela deeply loved her Pauline vocation and consequently was a vocationist who attracted young women by the power of her contagious witness and testimony. From 2011 on, she coordinated and guided the elderly and sick sisters in the Thecla Merlo community, Pasay. Her cheerful personality and good humor, combined with a powerful faith, helped to make every context in which she lived both joyous and welcoming. Her sparkling eyes and shining smile revealed her interior wealth and spontaneous adherence to the will of God. She loved to recite the "Act of Submission to the Will of God" in the certitude that her life belonged completely and forever to her Lord and Master. She felt a deep need for God's grace and light "so as to find him in the darkness of life and in the mystery of his love."

Now this light shines on our dear sister and on our entire Filipino Province, which in this period has returned many sisters to the arms of the Father. It is a light of faith and love, of self-offering and holiness. It is a Paschal light, which, from the darkness of death, will gift the Congregation and the world with the joy of salvation.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 26 September, 2013