

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

At dawn on the Feast of the Queen of Apostles, God the Father visited Le Fort Hospital in São Paulo, Brazil to call to himself our sister:

**POTRICH LIDOVINA – SR. MARIA BERNARDA
born in Passo Fundo, Brazil on 13 June 1933.**

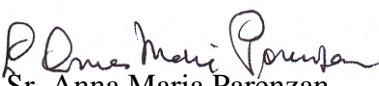
Sr. M. Bernarda was hospitalized a few days ago (7 June) because she was having severe problems breathing as a consequence of pneumonia. A patient in the intensive care wing, she suffered an heart attack early this morning, the vigil of Pentecost, almost as if the Spirit through this unexpected visit, wanted to touch her with the fire of his love, transforming her into his dwelling place forever.

Following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. Gabriella, Sr. M. Bernarda entered the Congregation in the community of Porto Alegre on 21 May 1946. She was only 13 years old at the time. She lived for several years in that formation community, where she worked in the typography. Afterward, she was sent to São Paulo to continue her studies and make her novitiate. She made her first profession on 19 March 1955, followed by her perpetual profession five years later. After obtaining her high-school diploma, Sr. M. Bernarda attended "Seat of Wisdom" University, where she took courses in religion, liturgy, Gregorian chant and languages. From 1958-61, she studied classical literature and obtained a licentiate in this field. In the 1980's, she took classes in journalism, biblical studies and theology. Because of her educational background, Sr. M. Bernarda taught various subjects in the Congregation for several years. As a member of the São Paulo, Salvador and Recife communities, she also carried out the writing apostolate. Afterward she served as local superior of Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador and then worked in the book centers of Fortaleza, Recife and Vitoria. In the Cidade Regina community and the FSP Publishing Center in São Paulo, she carried out various secretarial services and also the valuable proof-reading apostolate. A few years ago, she was assigned to the Domingo de Morais community of São Paulo, where she took specialized courses in information technology so as to run the province's virtual book center.

A gifted writer, Sr. M. Bernarda was one of the best-educated sisters of the Brazilian province. In remembering her, it comes very naturally to us to also recall what our Founder had to say concerning studies. In 1933, he urged the FSPs: "Be convinced that you know nothing and let this conviction prompt you to learn-learn a lot! May each one make progress in her particular office because we are all called to teach in many different ways." And: "The Daughters of St. Paul have a very high office: study is part of the very nature of their vocation. May they be worthy of that vocation!" (1937). We can say that Sr. M. Bernarda took these words of the Founder to heart and dedicated her life to studying the Word of God more deeply so as to communicate it to others in the ways most understandable to them.

And today, the vigil of the "first day of the week," the day of "vision," the day of peace, the day without end, arrived unexpectedly.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 11 June 2011
Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles