ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO CASA GENERALIZIA Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25 00163 Roma Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 11:30 a.m. today, local time, the Lord visited our Nazca community, Buenos Aires, Argentina, to call one of our sisters by name and lead her into our heavenly homeland:

RAMOS RITA MARIA – SR. MARIA ANGELICA born in Santa Fe, Argentina on 29 January 1925.

Sr. M. Angelica entered the Congregation in the Nazca community, Buenos Aires, on 27 October 1946. She was 21 years old at the time and had already earned a diploma as a piano teacher from the Brahms Music Conservatory in Santa Fe. After her entrance, she immediately began to carry out capillary and collective diffusion. She made her novitiate in Buenos Aires, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 20 August 1949.

As a young professed, Sr. M. Angelica continued the itinerant apostolate and also worked in the book centers of Rosario and Mendoza. Following this, she served an assistant formator in Buenos Aires for almost 20 years and then returned with great love and enthusiasm to the diffusion apostolate in the La Plata and Mendoza book centers.

Afterward, she zealously carried out various biblical and catechetical activities in the Santa Fe and Buenos Aires communities on an alternating basis for about 15 years. Deeply struck by the words of the Founder, "Blessed are those who evangelize the good, who evangelize peace," she never tired of speaking to people about God and her profound convictions "infected" the sisters and the many other people with whom she came in contact. Faced with the great challenges of the Pauline mission, Sr. M. Angelica said she felt "small and insignificant, like a drop of water in the ocean." But she clung firmly to the "Pact" in the certitude that the Divine Master could multiply her efforts to do good and enable his Word to reach countless people thirsting for the truth. She wrote: "I believe that Jesus Master and the Queen of Apostles will give me the light and grace I need to welcome all the sacrifices involved in bringing the good news of salvation to the whole world." It was with these profound apostolic sentiments in her heart that she accepted a long period of absence from her community in order to assist one of her sisters, who was severely disabled. At the end of this stage of her life, she wrote: "The past 6 years were a powerful spiritual experience for me. They required generous commitment and a lot of hard work but I am happy and content and ready to wholeheartedly do whatever the Lord asks of me. I place myself in his hands and trust fully in him."

In 2001, Sr. M. Angelica re-entered the Nazca community, where she dedicated herself with great love to the diffusion of the *Family Magazine*, service at the community reception desk, and the offices of sacristan and Eucharistic minister. She deeply loved the Liturgy and from the time of her entrance into the Institute she had always helped to prepare and enrich the community's liturgical celebrations through her service as an organist, playing the hymns in such a way as to elevate the spirit of the assembly and underscore the most significant moments of the Liturgy. A good and kind sister who was always ready to encourage others and spread serenity and peace around her, she was a model to everyone of faith and prayer.

Sr. M. Angelica prepared to meet the Lord by placing herself in the hands of the Virgin Mary. Yesterday, while praying the rosary with another sister, she asked the Queen of Apostles to take care of the needs of all the people she had visited during her many years as a propagandist. She drew her last breath in an attitude of praise and self-surrender to the Lord. Her heart, at this point, was simply worn out and the time had come for her to hand herself over to God, which she did in the attitude of the *Magnificat*: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan Superior General