

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

Today, at 12:45 p.m. (local time), one of the members of our Cidade Regina community, São Paulo, Brazil, was suddenly called to eternal life:

**SCARAMUZZI MARIA WELMIDES – SR. FATIMA
born in Agudos (Bauru), Brazil on 9 September 1928.**

Sr. Fatima had been a member of the Cidade Regina community for about 5 years. Although afflicted with total dementia, her serene, serviceable and humorous presence kept all the sisters very cheerful. She had been preparing for some time for her passage to heaven and her definitive meeting with the Lord. Her gentle and kind smile testified to the beauty of a Pauline life lived in love, joy and generous dedication to the various duties entrusted to her by obedience in Brazil and other Latin American circumscriptions.

Sr. Fatima entered the Congregation in the São Paulo DM community on 1 Nov. 1941 at the age of 13. She underwent her formation and novitiate in this house, making her first profession on 28 March 1948. From her earliest years in the Institute she had learned the art of bookbinding and it was not long before she was placed in charge of book production. After her perpetual profession in 1953, she was appointed mistress of the aspirants, who at that time were flocking to the São Paulo and Curitiba communities. The words Maestra Thecla wrote to her on the day of her final vows remained forever engraved on her heart: “May the yes you say to God always be joyful, fervent, loving, generous and irrevocable. Live this yes wholeheartedly every day up to the moment you hear the invitation of Jesus: ‘Enter into the joy of your Lord forever.’”

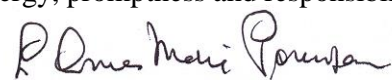
In 1959, Sr. Fatima was appointed superior of the Belo Horizonte-Turfa community and following this she carried out the same service in São Paulo/DM and Salvador. She was then called to life as a missionary first in Chile and then in Venezuela and Puerto Rico. In Concepcion, Chile she carried out the service of superior and in Valparaiso she worked in the book center. In 1972, she was appointed Delegation Superior of Venezuela and at the end of her mandate was transferred to Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico to work in the Diocesan Social Communications Center. On that occasion, the Archbishop thanked the Superior General for Sr. Fatima’s magnificent work in that Local Church.

Beginning in 1981, Sr. Fatima lived for almost 20 years in the various FSP communities in São Paulo, where she dedicated herself to the radio apostolate, editorial work and the service of superior. During this period, she took every opportunity to expand her cultural horizons by taking intensive courses in philosophy and theology, but also shorter ones in literature, communications, cinematography and languages. She wanted to carry out in the best way possible the duties entrusted to her by making the most of the gifts of nature and grace with which the Lord had enriched her. A person of profound interior life, she united fervent prayer to intense apostolic activity, without ever abandoning the humorous quirk to her personality that made her company so appealing.

From 1990-1999, Sr. Fatima served as provincial secretary for 3 consecutive terms of office—a work she carried out with passion, competence and great precision. In fact, she was so immersed in this responsibility that, during an international meeting for our circumscription governments, she composed a beautiful poem dedicated to all the Institute’s secretaries.

Sr. Fatima’s writing abilities were well known to everyone and afterward she continued to dedicate herself to the writing apostolate by revising the texts of the Founder’s Opera Omnia translated into Portuguese. In 2000, she was transferred to Belo Horizonte to carry out the service of secretary for the province’s Biblical Animation Service (SAB). Understanding the great gift of being able to communicate the grace and beauty of the Faith with competence and love, she made the most of this opportunity to deepen her study of Sacred Scripture.

Today, Sr. Fatima received the sudden but not unexpected invitation of her Bridegroom to “move to the other shore”—an invitation we are sure she accepted with the energy, promptness and responsibility that had marked her entire Pauline life. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 23 January 2020