

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,

Today, the Memorial of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, God the Father called to the eternal reward promised to his apostles our sister:

**SONEGO CECILIA – SR. LUIZA**  
**born in Santa Cruz do Rio Pardo, Brazil, on 24 January 1926.**

Today's Liturgy provides us with an apt insight into the personality of this "small" but great Daughter of St. Paul, who zealously and selflessly dedicated all her energies to the Pauline mission of spreading the Gospel to everyone. "My mouth shall declare your salvation"—these words from the responsorial psalm admirably sum up the life of Sr. Luiza, who "declared God's salvation" above all by means of the book center apostolate, which she deeply loved and which served her as a pulpit for proclaiming the Word of God.

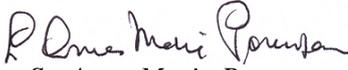
Sr. M. Luiza belonged to a profoundly Christian family, which gave the Church and the Pauline Family many religious. She entered the Congregation in the house of Sao Paulo, Brazil on 22 Dec. 1948. She made her novitiate in this community, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. Afterward, she carried out the Pauline mission in the Sao Paulo diocese, helping to organize and hold Bible, Marian, Catechetical and Book Weeks. In 1957, she was assigned to capillary and collective diffusion of the Word of God in Rio de Janeiro. Following this, she was transferred to Curitiba, where she dedicated the best of herself to the people through the book center apostolate. Except for a few years in Maringa, Sr. Luiza spent the rest of her life Curitiba, lovingly and joyously dedicating herself to the service of God and the people through the Congregation. She established warm and harmonious relationships with the many priests, religious and laity who visited our book center and they, in turn, felt that she was a true sister and mother to them. Sr. Luiza was always "on the run." She "ran" because she wanted the Word of God to reach as many people as possible. She did not want to lose even a minute of time and thus deny people the service she felt called to give them. She "raced ahead," loved and prayed...these were Sr. Luiza's distinguishing features. How many prayers sprang from her heart! She prayed for all the needs of the people. And how much love and goodness she manifested toward the members of her community! The sisters who lived with her say that she was a very kind and friendly person, who witnessed to great moderation and simplicity of life. Sr. Luiza lived the Pauline vocation in an integral way, allowing it to penetrate every fiber of her being. On her Silver Jubilee of religious profession, she wrote: "I am trying to prepare in the best way possible for this anniversary, which is a milestone in my life. I want to responsibly live my commitment to God, to the Church, to the Congregation and to the people we reach through the apostolate."

In 1997, Sr. Luiza had the chance to visit Italy and make a pilgrimage to the sites of our beginnings. Her heart overflowed with gratitude to God and the Congregation for this big grace.

Her life of profound union with Jesus Master was preparing her for the Paschal Mystery God called her to live in these last years. In 2004, she was transferred to the Cidade Regina community, Sao Paulo, due to the advance of Alzheimer's disease. But in spite of this malady, she continued to carry out various household duties and to make rosaries. Even in this new community, she never wasted any time—her burning desire was to dedicate every minute of her life to the Pauline mission. But in the depths of her heart she always felt very "homesick" for Curitiba. As long as she could talk, she would frequently speak of that community, saying that she hoped to return there one day. Even when it became almost impossible for her speak, she still managed to get out the words "I want to go back...." which was later reduced to the word "want...want..." repeated over and over again like a refrain.

Sr. Luiza's health deteriorated steadily over the last few months. Her body was reduced to skin and bones and her bed was transformed into an altar on which she offered God her life for the good of his people. Her entire existence "declared the salvation of God" up to its culmination—a long agony that led her into the arms of our merciful Father. With deep gratitude, we entrust to Sr. Luiza's intercession all the vocations to our Institute, for whom she always prayed in a special way, and also the Fraternal Visit to her beloved province, which is underway in these days.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parezan  
Vicar General

Rome, 29 August 2011