

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

We received the news that at 4:30 this morning, the first Friday of August, the Divine Master visited I.P.O. Hospital in Lisbon, Portugal, to call to his eternal light our sister:

SOUSA SR. MARIA LUCINDA
born in Fragesia de Campelo-Baiao (Porto), Portugal on 19 Dec. 1931

Sr. M. Lucinda was one of our first Portuguese vocations. She entered the Congregation in the community of Porto, Portugal on 19 March 1953 and immediately began to carry out the propaganda apostolate and to help our first Pauline missionaries respond to the bishop's plea to organize Bible Days in all the parishes of the Porto diocese. Annals of the times record our sisters as saying: "These Bible Feasts were like beams of light for us—anchors that bolstered our morale. They helped us relish the fact that we were Daughters of St. Paul, Sisters of the Gospel."

In 1956, Sr. Lucinda was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary on 30 June 1957. With her innate simplicity, she wrote in her letter requesting permission to make her profession: "I don't have a lot to say but I have many desires. Above all, I want to be a holy Daughter of St. Paul. With all my heart, I want to consecrate myself completely to the Lord and dedicate my entire life to the Congregation for the glory of God and the salvation of souls."

After her return to Portugal, Sr. Lucinda spent her Juniorate carrying out the propaganda apostolate in Lisbon and Porto. In this time, the personality traits noted by her formators came clearly to the fore, especially her observance of the rule, precision, kindness, spirit of service, generosity and industriousness.


She returned to Rome to prepare for her perpetual profession, which took place on 30 June 1962. On that occasion, she wrote: "It is a great grace to live in a Congregation that is so beautiful and fruitful, and in which nothing is lacking to help us become good and holy. I want to thank all the formators who contributed to my religious and Pauline formation.... I said *yes* to the Lord on the day of my first profession and now I want to say it again with full awareness, for all my life, for all eternity. I am determined to use all my energies for the glory of God and the salvation of souls."

In Portugal, Sr. Lucinda spent the next 10 years carrying out capillary and collective diffusion in the diocese of Lisbon and that of Funchal, on the island of Madeira. From 1975-1979 she worked at the paperback machine in the *Apelação* bindery, Lisbon. After a time of spiritual renewal in Alba, Italy, she was assigned to the communities of Lisbon, Funchal, Porto and Faro successively, where she worked in the book centers and carried out various community services. In 2015 she was transferred to Lisbon so as to undergo treatment for breast cancer—a malady that developed more aggressively in these last few months, spreading to her liver and kidneys.

Sr. Lucinda spent the last period of her life radiating the attitudes that had always characterized her, namely: joy, a positive outlook on things and a profound spirit of service. She was a true angel in her community—a bearer of peace, communion and hope, a person who was always ready to help her sisters. When she celebrated her gold jubilee of profession, she wrote: "My life has always been very simple. I have always tried to be faithful to the Lord, my rock and my refuge."

Thank you, Sr. Lucinda, for your upright character and simplicity of life. You were truly a ray of light for our communities, a sign of the love and tenderness of God the Father and of the solicitude of the Virgin Mary, who set out without hesitation to take the Gospel of joy to everyone.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 3 August 2018