

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

At 7:00 a.m. today, our merciful Father visited the intensive care unit of Le Forte Hospital, Sao Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself our sister:

VOLTARELLI PASCUINA – SR. M. TERESA
born in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 8 April 1928.

Last Saturday, Sr. M. Teresa fell and fractured her skull, triggering a cerebral hemorrhage. Because the doctors could not intervene in any way to improve her situation, she spent the last three days of her life in a medically-induced coma, awaiting the moment when she would reawake to celebrate the eternal Easter in heaven.

Sr. M. Teresa entered the Congregation on 11 February 1941 in the community of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She was 13 years old at the time and had just finished intermediate school. She spent many years in formation in the Domingo de Moraes community, where she finished high school and worked in the shipping department. On 28 March 1948, at the end of her novitiate, she made her religious profession in Sao Paulo and for the next 5 years carried out the service of formation assistant. In 1953 she was sent to Italy to complete her theological studies in the FSP student community of Rome.

In 1956, she returned to Brazil to dedicate herself with love and competence to writing catechetical texts and taking care of the administration of *Familia Crista* Magazine. For about 20 years she made an important contribution to preparing catechisms—an area of pastoral work in which she had specialized, obtaining a diploma from the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo. Following this, she also obtained degrees in children’s literature and psychology.

For many years, Sr. Teresa was a highly-esteemed teacher of Portuguese and Italian in her circumscription. She enjoyed sharing with the young candidates what she had learned in Italy at the sites associated with our Pauline beginnings, communicating to them her deep love of the Founder, Maestra Thecla and Sr. Ignazia Balla.

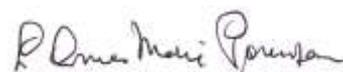
From 1975-1978, she was once again in Italy, this time stationed in the Generalate community. Looking back on that time, she wrote: “I often thank the Lord for the years I spent at the Generalate in Rome. Those were the happiest years of my Pauline life. I felt warmly welcomed by everyone and made many beautiful friendships. I loved all the sisters and felt loved by them in return.”

But Sr. Teresa’s health, which was very poor, made it necessary for her to ask for a leave of absence from the Congregation—a time she spent with her family. When she re-entered the Institute in 1980, she was assigned to the Cidade Regina community, Sao Paulo. It was in this community that she would spend the rest of her life, carrying out with great precision the work of proofreading and translating since she was fluent in both Portuguese and Italian, and possessed a good working knowledge of Latin, English and French. Sisters with language problems could always rely on her help. Sr. Teresa’s health, which continued to be precarious, helped her deepen her prayer life and renew the offering of her sufferings to God. She serenely accepted the cross he had given her, calling herself a “small Cyrene” because she was always willing to help others carry their burdens, especially the Institute’s Superiors General, toward whom she felt a profound debt of gratitude. Like Simon of Cyrene, she felt that her particular vocation in life was to help needy people bear their crosses.

When she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of profession, Sr. Teresa wrote: “My thanks go first and foremost to God, who chose and called me to carry out the beautiful and very urgent Pauline mission. I then want to thank all the people who provided me with assistance on my long journey through life....”

Let us ask Sr. Teresa to continue from heaven her mission as a “small Cyrene” on behalf of all those with special needs, in the conviction that she is one of the “little ones” to whom the gates of heaven have been thrown wide.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 7 June 2016