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Dearest Sisters,

We just received news from Boston, USA, that at 10:00 a.m. this morning (local time), one of our sisters hospitalized at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center (very close to our house) joined the “cloud of witnesses” that preceded her to eternal life:

**WALLACE SUSAN LEE – SR. SUSAN HELEN**  
**born in Youngstown, Ohio, USA, on 13 March 1940.**

Sr. Susan Helen entered the Congregation in the community of Boston on 13 June 1961. She underwent her initial formation and novitiate in this community, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1964. She spent the first year of her Juniorate in Boston, carrying out the diffusion apostolate and continuing her studies by means of courses organized within the Institute. Afterward she was transferred to Buffalo and from there to San Diego. In both cities she disseminated the Word of God to families and businesses with great enthusiasm. With a creativity springing from love, she continually tried to find new ways to help the Word reach everyone, even people barricaded behind what seemed to be tightly sealed doors. She rejoiced when she was able to overcome these obstacles so that the Word of God could race ahead and offer light to all. She intuitively understood the needs of the people and already as a young professed sister began to pour forth a flood of children’s books on the lives of the saints that even adults read with pleasure thanks to her simple and charming writing style. The most popular of these was her biography of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, her favorite saint.

After her perpetual profession, Sr. Susan Helen was sent carry out the diffusion apostolate in the huge metropolis of New York. Afterward, she returned to Boston where she continued her studies so as to be able to carry out the writing apostolate with greater professional expertise. She received a Master’s Degree in Catechetics and threw herself enthusiastically into the catechetical apostolate by writing numerous catechisms for children, as well as the accompanying work books and teacher’s guides. Alongside the writing apostolate and teaching the younger members of the community, she continued her own cultural formation, receiving a Master’s Degree in Theology and after that a degree in journalism, which facilitated her work of contributing numerous articles to the *Family Magazine*, published by the US Province.

In 1994, Sr. Susan Helen was transferred to Cleveland so as to be closer to her family. From 2000-2004, she took a leave of absence to care for her sick and elderly mother. When she returned to her community, she continued the writing apostolate and also took advantage of every opportunity to carry out diffusion activities, in spite of the fact that she was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, which had seriously curtailed her ability to walk. Although fully aware of her serious physical condition, Sr. Susan Helen communicated to others her vibrant joy in living the Pauline vocation. However, her health continued to deteriorate and in fact worsened seriously in these last months due to a tumor and a contagious infection that weakened her even further.

On 27 June 2013, while undergoing rehabilitation, Sr. Susan Helen began to experience bleeding of the brain—an alarming situation that obliged her to undergo three operations in three days in an attempt to halt the blood seepage. To the amazement of her doctors, Sr. Susan Helen’s incessant prayers and interior energy enabled her to overcome that highly critical situation. But her calvary was not yet over. Just a few days ago, on 13 August, she suffered a massive stroke that left her no hope of recovery. But Sr. Susan Helen was ready to meet the Lord and Master she had loved and yearned for all her life.

As we prepare to begin our Chapter work and rediscover the teaching dimension of our vocation, the Pauline life of this dear sister reminds us powerfully of our call to be light and to offer everyone the most sublime act of charity: “*the charity of the truth.*” May Sr. Susan Helen, who now contemplates the face of God, obtain for us the grace to understand our apostolic mandate as an “investiture” that touches every aspect of our life and places us in the hands of the Lord to carry out the work to which he has called us.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 18 August 2013