

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

At 6:00 a.m. today, the Memorial of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, our merciful Father unexpectedly visited our Cidade Regina community in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself our sister:

BUENO OLIVEIRA TERESA – SR. MARIA DO CARMO
born in Fartura (Sao Paulo), Brazil on 15 February 1923.

Sr. Maria do Carmo, one of our first Brazilian FSPs, helped and sustained in many ways our first foundation in this country. She entered the Congregation in the Divine Master community, Sao Paulo, on 10 January 1937, at the age of 14. She made her novitiate in this community, concluding it with her first profession on 17 February 1946. After her profession, she was assigned to the Porto Alegre book center and later was asked to teach the younger sisters.

In 1954 she was already the local superior of the Belo Horizonte community, and as soon as her term of office ended she was asked to carry out the same service in Salvador. Afterward she was appointed assistant formation mistress in Curitiba, followed by a new term as superior in the Rio de Janeiro community. In 1968, she was asked to work in the administration department of *Familia Crista* magazine, while at the same time continuing her service as assistant formator. During that period, when her provincial superior asked her if she had any particular desires, she replied: “I want to see the will of God in the dispositions of my superiors.... What counts is to be ready for heaven.”

Sr. Maria Do Carmo carried out the book center apostolate with great love in Fortaleza, Curitiba and Niteroi, also serving as local bursar in the last-mentioned house. In 2003, she was transferred to Sao Paulo, where she carried out various services in the Alberione Institute community.

Several years ago, declining health made it necessary to move her to the Cidade Regina community, where she quietly lived in the spirit of simplicity and kindness that had always characterized her. A very humble sister, it seemed that she wanted to disappear from sight. She moved around unnoticed, spreading good wherever she went without calling attention to herself. A person of profound prayer, she was intimately united to her Lord through a deep and almost childlike faith. Sr. Maria Do Carmo was a happy person who disseminated around her joy, gratitude, love for the Pauline mission and a yearning to reach everyone through the apostolate entrusted to her. She loved community life and sought to enrich it by participating in the animation of festive events. Her positive outlook on life, founded on faith, enabled her to diffuse tranquility and peace in every situation.


When the sisters of the Province learned that she had died of a heart attack, they said that Sr. Maria Do Carmo had passed to eternity in her own special way: discreetly and silently, without attracting anyone’s attention, totally committed to her Pauline vocation up to the very end. She was truly a small and fragile candle that burnt itself out for the glory of God and peace in the world.

As we remember today the humility and courageous obedience of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo and as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Divine Master, let us feel that the following words of the first “Blessed” of the Pauline Family are addressed to each of us in particular:

“What is the condition for this integral devotion [to the Divine Master]? It is this: that we become small; that we feel our smallness and that we remain small. We must truly become one of the ‘little ones’ spoken about in the Gospel because it is only to these that Jesus gives his wisdom. These are the souls he draws to himself and on whom he pours out his graces.”

Sr. Maria Do Carmo was one of these “little ones” loved by the Lord and we are sure that she will be remembered as a blessing to the Congregation by all those who knew her.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 19 October 2016