

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

At a little after midnight last night, the Divine Master visited our Provincialate community of Pasay City, Philippines, to lead to a beautiful seat in heaven our sister:

**GEORGE SR. SYLVIA  
born in Inobong Penampang (Kota Kinabalu), Malaysia on 2 September 1961.**

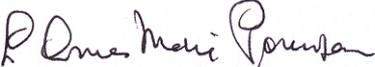
In 2009, it was discovered that Sr. Sylvia was suffering from ovarian cancer, which aggressively spread to her lungs and liver. A few weeks ago, the doctors said her situation had reached the critical point and in fact she deteriorated rapidly. Our sisters all prayed fervently to Prima Maestra Thecla, asking the grace of her recovery but it is clear that the Lord had other plans for this dear sister. Surrounded by the loving presence of her mother and the sisters of her community, Sr. Sylvia hastened to the Father along the new and living Way opened to us by the Lord Jesus in this Easter season.

Sr. Sylvia entered the Congregation in the community of Selangor, Malaysia on 24 March 1984. From the outset of her religious life, she was noted for her openness, simplicity, spirit of commitment and sense of responsibility. Sr. Sylvia was a kind and generous person, always ready to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to the Pauline mission through the various duties entrusted to her. She was especially sensitive to spiritual values: in fact, even as a novice, she felt God's presence, cultivated an intense love for Jesus in the Eucharist and allowed herself to be shaped by his Word. Her superiors had high hopes for her because of her many talents, including her gift for leadership. Sr. Sylvia underwent her initial formation in Pasay City, Philippines. She also made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 25 January 1989. As a Junior, she worked in our Kota Kinabalu community in Malaysia, after which she continued her studies in the Regina Apostolorum community of Pasay City.

On the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul in 1994, Sr. Sylvia joyfully made her perpetual profession. Immediately afterward was assigned to the Divine Master community of Pasay, where she worked in the formation sector as a vocation directress, and formator/assistant of the postulants and pre-novices. She developed her skills in this area by attending summer courses for teachers. From 2000-2008, Sr. Sylvia served as superior of the Selangor community in Malaysia. Given the limited number of sisters there, she contemporaneously carried out the duties of book center manager, local bursar, aspirant formator, and director of the Pauline Cooperators. In view of the great challenges facing the Pauline mission in Malaysia, Sr. Sylvia sought to use every means possible to reach the people of her homeland, who were thirsting for the Word of God. She foresaw a bright future for the Pauline mission in this land and yearned to cultivate her talents more deeply so as to respond adequately to the needs of the people.

In June 2008, Sr. Sylvia came to Italy to study Italian as a prelude to participating in the annual Charism Course for the Pauline Family. She lived this stage of her life enthusiastically and intensively, entering wholeheartedly into the life of the Generalate community. Sr. Sylvia's joyful spirit and friendliness toward everyone made her a beautiful and deeply-appreciated presence among us. She was very happy to have the chance to assimilate more profoundly the wealth of the Pauline charism and to visit the sites associated with our beginnings. Because she felt the need to help consolidate our Congregation's presence in Malaysia, she chose as a theme for her concluding dissertation: "Alberione and the Pauline Mission in Malaysia Yesterday and Today." When she returned to her circumscription, Sr. Sylvia was appointed provincial councilor—an office into which she heroically poured all her energy even as she smilingly but with great determination battled the malady that was steadily undermining her health.

We thank the Lord for the gift of Sr. Sylvia, a living and precious "stone" in the "edifice" of our Institute and we also thank him and submit to his infinite wisdom in calling our sister to his marvelous light today. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 23 May 2011