

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

We received the news that at 10:00 yesterday evening, the Lord visited the intensive care unit of Le Forte Hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to accept as a “living and perfect sacrifice” the life of our sister:

MACHADO MARIA AMELIA – SR. BARTOLOMEA
born in Picada Capivara (Porto Alegre), Brazil, on 5 July 1921.

Sr. Bartolomea entered the Congregation in Porto Alegre on 26 May 1946. She was already an adult and while still at home had taken a course in nursing organized by the Red Cross. She was working in a large hospital in her hometown when she was attracted to the style of life of the Daughters of St. Paul. Fired by the desire to give herself to God, she left her family and job and went to Sao Paulo where she underwent her initial formation and novitiate, concluding the latter with her first profession on 8 December 1949.

As a young professed, she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Pelotas, a small community that was experiencing the challenges and difficulties of the beginnings. Afterward, she was transferred to the communities of Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo and Maringà successively. The grace of her vocation helped her overcome the problems she encountered and gave wings to her yearning to bring the Word of God to even the most distant families. For a number of years (1966-1972) she worked in the sewing room of the Divine Master community (Sao Paulo), after which she dedicated herself joyfully and with a great spirit of availability to the nursing apostolate in the Rio de Janeiro and Cidade Regina (Sao Paulo) communities.

In 1982, she was transferred to Brasilia, where she once again carried out book center and propaganda activities. Following this, she returned to the Cidade Regina community, where she lived for the rest of her life except for two brief periods in Porto Alegre and Canoas.

Sr. Bartolomea was a good, generous and sociable sister, who warmly accepted everyone. She deeply loved her Pauline vocation and was very devoted to Fr. Alberione and Maestra Thecla, whom she had come to know on their visits to Brazil. She prayed unceasingly for priests and was immensely happy when one of her nephews embraced this state of life.

In 1975, she wrote to Sr. Ignazia Balla, who was Superior General at that time: “With trust and confidence, I renew my *yes* to God with a greater awareness of what I am doing. I want to be faithful to the charism of the Founder and I am sure that the Lord will give me the grace I need to do this. I know that in this life we must struggle up to the moment of death. After that, we will be confirmed in grace. This thought comforts me and gives me the courage to continue the journey I have begun.”

When Sr. Bartolomea celebrated her Golden Jubilee of profession in 1999, she wrote: “I praise and thank God for his goodness and for the innumerable spiritual and material graces he has granted me in these 50 years. I am grateful to the Queen of Apostles and St. Paul, and for the help given me by my formators and friends. In everything and for everything, I want to give glory to God for his goodness and thank Mary for her maternal love.”

Sr. Bartolomea liked to tell our young women in formation stories about the saints because she was striving to imitate these friends of God, who had become her friends. Like them, she wanted to be vigilant so as to be ready for the arrival of her Spouse and with this in mind she frequently went to confession so as to be beautiful for him. She had a filial love for the Blessed Mother: her rosary was always in her hands and she bore in her heart the message Prima Maestra Thecla had written to her in 1954: “Be faithful to your promises up until death. Entrust yourself to the Virgin Mary. She will help you cultivate the virtues you need to become a saint and will also help you reach that goal.”

And yesterday (Saturday) the Blessed Mother and all the saints welcomed Sr. Bartolomea to heaven, enabling her to finally satisfy her great thirst for God.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 31 August 2014