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Dearest Sisters,

With deep emotion I would like to inform you that Christ the Master visited Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy at about 3:30 this afternoon to call to eternal happiness our sister:

PIENSI SR. MARIA ROSA
born in Paratico (Brescia), Italy on 26 April 1945.

Sr. Maria Rosa was a great missionary—a sister who truly dedicated her entire Pauline life to the mission “ad gentes.” She entered the Congregation in the house of Alba on 28 April 1966. After her period of formation and apostolic experience in Milan, she made her first profession in the Motherhouse on 29 June 1972. Immediately afterward, she was sent to Verona and then to the Juniorate community in Bologna, where she concluded her studies and earned a teacher’s diploma. In 1976 she was sent across the ocean to Chile, the first overseas country to which she would dedicate herself as a missionary with great generosity and love.

Sr. Maria Rosa made her perpetual profession there on 29 June 1978 in the community of Santiago. In this community, she worked first in the book center and then in the editorial department, where she focused above all on the catechetical apostolate. In 1987, she spent an extended period of time in Rome studying Missiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. She concluded her studies with a thesis entitled *The Apostolic Missionary Spirituality of Maestra Thecla Merlo*, which earned her a Master’s Degree in the field. The President of the Missiology Department suggested that she go on to obtain a Doctorate but instead Sr. Maria Rosa preferred to accept the invitation to return to Latin America.

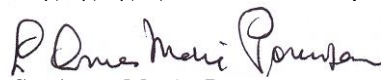
Sent to Peru, she was immediately elected vice-superior of the Lima community and also appointed coordinator of the Delegation’s publishing apostolate. In 1991 she was transferred to Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she served as delegation councilor for two terms of office. During her time there, she also served as local superior and formator of the juniors and aspirants. In 1997 she returned to Lima to serve as both Delegation and local superior—offices in which she was reconfirmed in 2003-2006 and 2006-2009.

Sr. Maria Rosa dedicated the most beautiful and fruitful years of her life to the Peru-Bolivia Delegation, where she incorporated many lay collaborators into the Pauline mission. She enriched the Delegation with her powerful apostolic dynamism, upgrading both the publishing and diffusion sectors. She took pride in the many book centers she had staffed with lay co-workers throughout the circumscription. A great-hearted person, Sr. Maria Rosa would have willingly opened similar book centers everywhere so as to give unlimited scope to the spread of the Gospel. She poured all her creativity into promoting the publishing apostolate and was very happy to cede book rights gratis to our other Latin American circumscriptions. In these last years, her maximum efforts were channeled into coordinating the production of an FPS Bible for Latin America. Last month, by means of Skype, she had the joy of participating in the most recent meeting of the commission in charge of this project.

Diagnosed as suffering from a grave form of lymphatic cancer, Sr. Maria Rosa returned to Italy in July 2015 and was admitted to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano. She underwent intensive chemotherapy treatments, which seemed to effectively reduce the cancer, encouraging her to start planning her return to Peru. But Sr. Maria Rosa had not been idle during her time in Italy. While hospitalized, she continued to coordinate the publishing projects of her circumscription and its collaborators. From Italy, she also prepared the monthly periodical *Palabra y Eucaristia* up to 2019 and also the study aid *Les doy una buena noticia*—a widely-diffused periodical on the Word of God.

About 10 days ago, Sr. Maria Rosa began to reveal signs indicating that the cancer had metastasized to her liver to the point that the doctors could do nothing for her. Our sister leaves her enthusiasm, joy, faith and love for the Pauline mission as her precious gift to the Congregation—her “unwritten legacy” to her beloved sisters of Peru-Bolivia and to the many other sisters who knew and esteemed her. This is how we want to remember her: sitting before a computer filled with all the publishing data of her Delegation, dreaming about and planning new apostolic initiatives, continuing to set down guidelines to give wings to the Word, enabling it to race across the Latin American continent, bringing light, comfort and hope to everyone.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 3 March 2016