

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 4:35 this morning, local time, God our good Father paid an unexpected visit to Mandaluyong City Medical Center (Manila), Philippines to call to himself by means of a heart attack our sister:

AUSA LYDIA – SR. MARIA DIONISA
born in Cebu City, Philippines, on 7 April 1937.

For several weeks, Sr. M. Dionisia had been a patient in the Medical Center, which is run by an Indian priest. Two days ago, another sister who stopped by to see Sr. M. Dionisia found her much improved. In fact, there was no indication that death was imminent.

Sr. M. Dionisia entered the Congregation in the community of Pasay on 26 May 1958. After a period of initial formation in that community, she made her novitiate in Lipa, concluding it with her first profession on 8 December 1962. In her letter requesting admission to the vows she wrote: “I know that in order to become the spouse of Christ I have to embrace the cross he has prepared for me.... With the grace of God, I want to be a generous and fervent Pauline and a true and obedient religious.... I also would like very much to work in the missions....”

As a young professed, Sr. M. Dionisia enthusiastically carried out capillary diffusion for ten consecutive years in Davao, after which she had the chance to finish her studies. Having earned a business degree, in 1976 she asked to be sent as a missionary to Bolivia but this desire was not fulfilled because of her fragile health.

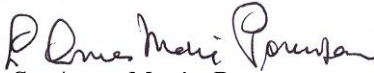
In 1979 she was appointed provincial superior and then served as provincial bursar for two terms of office. After this, she was made a group leader in the Pasay community and also worked in the department that handled non-FSP editions. In 1991, Sr. M. Dionisia was appointed superior of the large Queen of Apostles community. It was at this point in her life that she learned she was suffering from a tumor. She did not want to undergo the usual medical treatments for cancer and instead asked to follow natural cures, although her superior was not in favor of this.

In 1993, Sr. M. Dionisia asked for and obtained a leave of absence from the community so as to make a vocational discernment and take care of her health. Upon her re-entry, she was sent to Lipa, where she carried out many different services for the community and then was appointed local superior for two terms of office. Her special sensitivity to prayer and attention to the sufferings of others attracted many lay people, who begged her to ask the Lord to heal them. In view of this particular charism and all the good she was doing for people, the bishop of the diocese authorized Sr. M. Dionisia to officially carry out the ministry of prayer and healing in St. Teresita parish, in collaboration with its pastor and in dependence on him. In 2006, she was transferred to Cagayan de Oro, where she carried out the service of local bursar and also worked in the book center.

Sr. M. Dionisia will be remembered as a sister who always sought the face of God, revealed in the most simple and needy of his people. She will be remembered for her capacity for sacrifice, her honesty of life and her love for the Congregation, especially the young women in formation, to whom she loved to offer formative content and the values essential to the religious life.

Today, the Feast of St. Bernard, a very significant date for the whole Pauline Family, let us entrust to the intercession of Sr. M. Dionisia our Pauline brothers, ourselves and all the Institutes that little by little emerged to compose the mosaic of this marvelous “divine project.” Let us ask her to pray that the Lord will bless the Pauline Family with new apostles to enrich the Church and reinvigorate the Pauline vocation.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 20 August 2015