

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

We received the news that a little after 5:00 p.m. today (local time), God our good and merciful Father visited the Thecla Merlo House in Pasay City, Philippines to call to himself our sister:

**DANDOY LORETO – SR. M. IMELDA**  
**born in Sampoloc (Manila), Philippines on 20 December 1936.**

Sr. Imelda entered the Congregation in Pasay City on 7 Nov. 1959, after finishing high school. Together with the content of initial formation, she learned the art of bookbinding in the FSP bindery in Pasay. She made her novitiate in Lipa, concluding this stage of her formation journey with her first profession on 8 Dec. 1963. Sr. Imelda yearned to become a saint. When she made her perpetual profession in Pasay in 1968, she wrote: “I have no other desire than to love the Lord and become a saint.” And she truly sought to reinvigorate this commitment to holiness every day of her life, striving to concretize what M. Thecla wrote to her in 1962: “Give yourself completely to God. Do everything in his presence, so as to please Jesus and Mary most holy.”

Fired by this profound desire, Sr. M. Imelda dedicated herself to the “propaganda” apostolate for almost 20 years, travelling the streets of Manila, Vigan, Baguio and Olongapo. She had great faith in the grace of her vocation and was aware that every step she took to bring the Word of God to others united her more profoundly to Jesus, the Apostle of the Father par excellence. Sr. Imelda worked in our Vigan, Pasay, Baguio and Tuguegarao book centers, where she was deeply loved by the people, who considered her to be their sister and friend—a person to whom they could confide their sufferings and who offered them comfort.

She served as superior of the Baguio community for two terms of office, at the same time managing the vocation apostolate and radio programming. After this intensive apostolic period, declining health obliged her to take some time out in the Provincial House but she made a quick recovery. She was placed in charge of the administration of the province’s distribution center for religious objects and non-Pauline books—an office that she carried out with great responsibility. Following this, she was once again appointed to the service of authority, this time in Tacloban and then in the formation community of the Divine Master House in Pasay City. Sr. Imelda’s warm and welcoming personality helped her forge strong bonds with the Institute’s young candidates, to whom she communicated her joy in living the Pauline vocation and mission. She was always ready to accompany the postulants on Bible Weeks held in the “existential peripheries” of cities, walking for hours with a bag overflowing with the Word of God.

In 2000, Sr. Imelda was assigned to the Queen of Apostles community, where she was once again asked to manage the sector dedicated to non-Pauline editions. During this time, she also corrected page proofs for as long as her health permitted.

Sr. Imelda was a good, simple, straightforward, serene and kind person—a sister whose awareness of her frailties did not prevent her from doing her utmost to become holy.

In 2009, she was inserted in the group of sick sisters, where she disseminated peace and harmony to everyone around her, cheering up the other members of the community with her big smile and good humor, in spite of the fact that her own face was marked with sickness and suffering. But Sr. Imelda never complained about anything; she was always ready to thank others for every small favor and act of kindness done for her. About a year ago, the breast tumor that seemed to have been successfully removed reappeared and it was discovered that the cancer had invaded her bones. Sr. Imelda refused to undergo surgery and instead chose to remain in her community, where she awaited the coming of her Spouse, surrounded by her sisters, who were praying incessantly for her.

A few days ago, Sr. Imelda’s condition worsened and today the Virgin Mary accompanied her to heaven, where she will now contemplate for all eternity Jesus, the Face of the Father’s mercy.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 14 December 2015