

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

At 6:45 p.m. yesterday (local time) one of our sisters of the Nazca (Buenos Aires) community, Argentina was rushed to the emergency room of St. Camillus Hospital, but while still on the way there she was called to eternal life by the heavenly Father:

**FRACAROLI ESTHER JACINTA – SR. MARGARITA
born in Galarza (Gualeguaychu), Argentina on 22 April 1930.**

Everything happened very unexpectedly. Sr. Margarita had gotten up after her afternoon siesta and was having a snack when she suddenly felt sick—a pain so acute that the sisters immediately called an ambulance but in spite of their prompt action she died before she reached the hospital. The Lord manifested his mercy toward this dear sister up to the very end: since a group of Daughters of St. Paul are currently making their spiritual exercises in the community, the priest was called and before the ambulance arrived Sr. Margarita had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, participating actively in this liturgical rite despite her pain and difficulty in breathing.

Entering the Congregation in the community of Nazca (Buenos Aires) on 14 January 1954, Sr. Margarita underwent her initial formation and novitiate in this community, concluding it with her first profession on 29 June 1956. A year later, she and Sr. Josefina Glassmann were asked to open a community in Corrientes, where Sr. Margarita stood out for her great apostolic zeal and her love for diffusion. She carried out this mission with great commitment and self-sacrifice, often remaining away from the community for several months at a time. She took with her on these trips the affectionate notes written to her by Maestra Thecla or even just her picture and that of the Founder, both of whom promptly responded to the information she sent them with childlike simplicity. Among these notes, she preserved with special care a brief message of Primo Maestro, written in 1969, in which he reminded her that Paul VI had compared the FSP propagandists to industrious little ants.

For almost 20 years, Sr. Margarita visited the families, bringing to each home not only the Bible and other Christian reading but also her warm smile and goodness. After Corrientes, she carried out the propaganda apostolate generously and joyously in Montevideo (Uruguay), Buenos Aires and Mendoza. She wanted everyone she met to receive a word of hope and so she did all she could to ensure that the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana* reached every home, urging people with great conviction to subscribe to it. In the last years of her life, Sr. Margarita regularly visited the barrio (slum) near the Nazca community so as to bring people the magazine, along with her serene presence and words of comfort. For several years, she had dedicated herself full time to the promotion of this periodical in our Sarmiento (Buenos Aires) and Santa Fe Agencies, and thus she suffered deeply when it ceased to be printed but she sought to see the hand of God in this decision.

Sr. Margarita also worked with great zeal in the Santa Fe, Mendoza, Tucuman, Resistencia, Buenos Aires and Montevideo (Uruguay) book centers. In Anatuya, she helped to run the diocesan radio station.

Our sister had a very sociable character: she loved to talk and wanted to be informed about everything. She spent the last years of her life in the infirmary wing of the Nazca community, accepting this transfer with peace, faith and abundant prayer. She continually entrusted the apostolate, vocations and the needs of the Congregation to Blessed James Alberione and Maestra Thecla. These were the intentions she carried in her heart and, we are sure, has now placed in the arms of the Father. Like Jacob (in today's first reading), St. Paul and the many Pauline sisters and brothers who preceded her, Sr. Margarita has now come "face to face" with living God and has received a new name—the name of those who are saved.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General