

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

We just received the news that at 5:45 a.m. today (local time), the Blessed Mother visited our community of Mexico City, Mexico, to guide to the light of God our sister:

**HERNANDEZ ZENDEJAS M. ANTONIA – SR. M. ANUNCIACION**  
**born in Zacapu (Michoacan), Mexico on 4 Dec. 1934.**

Sr. M. Anunciacion was a great apostle, capable of passing on to everyone she met her enthusiasm and love for the Pauline mission. She entered the Congregation in the community of Mexico City on 4 March 1954 at the age of 20. It was a Marian Year and our first Mexican sisters say that it was a time overflowing with graces for their circumscription, born just a few years earlier.

Sr. M. Anunciacion made her novitiate in Mexico City, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 30 June 1958. She remained for several more years in that community, working in the technical apostolate, and then began a long period of assignments to various branch houses, where she carried out above all the apostolate of capillary and collective propaganda, scattering seeds of the Word in the schools and parishes of Leon, Guadalajara, Mazatlan, Ciudad Juarez and Monterrey. She then worked in the book centers of Puebla, Mexico City, Tijuana and Monterrey. Following this, she returned to Mexico City, where she worked in the stock room and also served as cook for the community.

In 1989 she was appointed local superior of Leon, after which she continued to carry out the direct apostolate in Tijuana, Guadalajara and Ciudad Juarez.

From 2001 up until just a few months ago, Sr. M. Anunciacion was a member of the Amatista community of Mexico City, located just a short distance from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In the shadow of this world-famous Shrine, she carried out an intense apostolate in the book center and in the field of pastoral work for vocations. She said repeatedly that the chance to spend so many years in a place so dear to the hearts of the Mexican people was a sign of Mary's tenderness toward her.

Sr. Anunciacion was happy to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to the diffusion of the Gospel in that little corner of heaven, where she could be of service to priests, religious and pilgrims not only from all parts of Mexico but from all over the world. She considered it a grace to be able to meet these throngs of people, the majority of whom were simple and poor in earthly goods but rich in faith and love. She seized every opportunity to visit the Sanctuary, where she spoke to the Blessed Mother with great intimacy and childlike affection, entrusting to her the many people she met throughout the day, especially those bearing heavy crosses.

As a result, Sr. M. Anunciacion radiated a constant joy and apostolic passion that rubbed off on everyone she met. For her, no toil or sacrifice was too much to bear in view of the Pauline mission. Although she suffered from a serious form of osteoporosis, resulting in a badly-twisted spine, she continued to "race ahead," offering her sufferings and above all her daily rosaries for vocations, for which she had always nourished special affection and concern.

Her life was an ongoing *Magnificat* because she had surrendered herself completely into the hands of the Blessed Mother and, like Mary, her heart burned with love for Jesus and with the desire to take him to everyone.

About 6 months ago, Sr. M. Anunciacion injured her spine, which was already very fragile, and thus began a long calvary that for a time kept her suspended between life and death. Moved to our central community of Mexico City, she spent the last stage of her life in continual prayer, hoping against hope that she would be able to return to "her" basilica and the book center apostolate that she deeply loved. But at this point, purified and transformed by her sufferings, she was ready to enter heaven. This morning she suffered a heart attack that sent her flying into the arms of the One she loved with all her heart. We entrust the vocation apostolate to Sr. M. Anunciacion's prayers, asking her to intercede for the young women of Mexico who show an interest in the Pauline life and mission.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 27 February 2015