

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,

Today, the Feast of the Queen of Apostles, the Blessed Virgin visited St. Camillus Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to lead home to heaven our sister:

**ROMERO SR. ZUNILDA RAQUEL**  
**born in Colonia Reconquista, Argentina on 20 April 1943.**

Eight years ago, when Sr. Raquel returned to Argentina from Rome after participating in the annual charism course for the Pauline Family, it was discovered that she was suffering from colon cancer. She courageously underwent several operations and chemotherapy cycles, begging Prima Maestra Thecla to obtain for her the grace of healing. Many other FSPs joined her in praying for this intention. But instead of satisfying this request, Maestra Thecla obtained for Sr. Raquel the gift of progressive self-surrender into the arms of the heavenly Father. The year Sr. Raquel had spent in Rome had made a great impact on her: during that time she reflected more profoundly on the life of Maestra Thecla, concretizing her intuitions in her final dissertation: "When a Woman Says *Yes* to God." The presence of M. Thecla in her life was a joyous discovery for Sr. Raquel and from that time on she took every opportunity to entrust herself to this good Mother and to make her known to the young women she met while carrying out the vocation apostolate, offering them the witness of how to live the Pauline charism with one's entire being.

In his infinite goodness, the Divine Master progressively prepared Sr. Raquel for her passage to eternity. In 2005, when there was still no sign that she was suffering from a grave illness, she wrote: "In my life, I have always thought about death and tried to prepare myself for it. When it arrives, it will be according to the Lord's will. I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer, and to him I entrust myself and my eternal destiny. He will lead me to heaven, where there are no tears or sufferings, and I will remain with him forever."

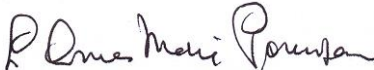
Sr. Raquel entered the Congregation in Buenos Aires on 2 Sept. 1958. Following a period of initial formation, she was admitted to the novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 8 Dec. 1963. Gifted with a strong-willed and enterprising nature, Sr. Raquel carried out the Pauline apostolate boldly, continually seeking new horizons for our mission. She possessed the ability to look at situations critically and yearned that her dreams for the apostolate might be fulfilled to the maximum.

She carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Montevideo, Uruguay and in Mendoza, Argentina, serving as local superior of the latter community for 3 years. Afterward, Sr. Raquel was assigned to the book center apostolate, first in Tucuman and then in Resistencia, where she worked in the audio-visual department and promotion office, and also carried out the vocation ministry. Transferred to Buenos Aires, she was placed in charge of the Film and Video Distribution Center. She enthusiastically welcomed the new opportunities being offered to this sector and, although lacking specific training in the field, produced a successful documentary on Our Lady of Lujan. Assigned to the Santa Fe community, she guided courses on how to use the media and then, in Buenos Aires, carried out the radio apostolate. But the apostolic service she loved best was pastoral work for vocations—a ministry she carried out with great fervor especially when she was in Resistencia, where she dedicated herself with faith and love to kindling the flame of the Pauline charism in the hearts of many young women.

Sr. Raquel spent the last stage of her life as the director of Radio Solidaridad in the Anatumayo diocese. She threw herself wholeheartedly into this service, despite the fact that her physical condition was steadily deteriorating due to the rapid advance of the cancer. From her bed, she continued to supervise the radio's programs and agenda and to make a valuable contribution to this apostolate.

In March 2015, Sr. Raquel returned to Buenos Aires to undergo yet another operation, but she had reached the moment she had both anticipated and feared. Today, the words of the Pentecost Liturgy were realized for her: "I will open your graves...and put my spirit in you that you may live." Let us ask the Father to infuse his breath of life into our sister and reawaken her to the joy of eternal life with him.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 23 May 2015