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Dearest Sisters,

At 11:15 this morning, local time, our good Father visited the community of Santiago, Chile, to call to himself our sister:

**CONTADOR SOLIS DEMETRIA – SR. MARIA ROSARIO**  
**born in Tomé (Concepcion), Chile on 6 July 1937.**

“Charito,” as she was familiarly called, entered the Congregation in the house of Santiago La Florida on 5 February 1959. She spent the time of her initial formation and also her novitiate in this community, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 30 June 1962. As a young professed, Sr. M. Rosario learned the art of book center work in Santiago—an apostolic activity that remained deeply engraved on her heart and which motivated her consecration throughout her life: from youth to her senior years and during the time of failing health. Several years ago, she herself said that she was “in love” with the book center and that she had discovered the secret of Pauline apostolic mysticism precisely through carrying out this mission. The book center apostolate incited her to keep herself continually updated so as to competently suggest publications suited to different situations and to become almost a “spiritual director” of people she often did not know.

In 1969, Sr. M. Rosario was appointed superior of our Antofagasta community in the north Chilean desert. Then, after a brief time in Santiago’s catechetical office, she was once again entrusted with the service of superior, this time in Valparaiso. Following this, she served as delegation councilor for 3 years and then as bursar for 2 successive terms. It was this latter role that brought to the fore her organizational skills, precision, love for the Pauline charism and desire to make the most of all the resources at her disposal so that the Congregation’s mission could develop in every area.

When she was superior and at the same time book center manager in Concepcion, she made every effort to transform this “pulpit” into a place of culture, encounter and radiation of the Gospel. In her repeated terms as superior of Santiago and other communities in Chile, she distinguished herself for the good relations she established with each sister, as well as for the support she gave to various apostolic initiatives and pastoral work for vocations.

Sr. M. Rosario did not neglect to cultivate her spiritual life through listening to and assimilating the Word, and through study and reflection on what was happening in the Church and in society. With her, one could share ideas on any subject, deal with any question. Above all, Sr. M. Rosario was a connoisseur of operatic music, which she listened to with true passion. She herself had a beautiful soprano voice and also played the organ—talents which she willingly used to help make liturgical celebrations more festive. Poetic by nature, she loved all things beautiful and artistic, above all the marvels of the natural world, which caused her to burst into praise of God.

From 2010 onward, Sr. M. Rosario was stationed in Santiago. Despite her steadily declining health, she devoted herself to reorganizing the community library, which she considered to be an important vehicle of culture and which she used to expand her own knowledge and keep updated. In the last few days, the sisters noticed that she was having trouble with oral and motor coordination caused by a stroke she had suffered some time previously. It was clear that the effects of that event were getting worse and this morning she entered into agony, surrounded by the prayers and affection of the members of her community. We are sure that the Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea and Gate of Heaven, took our sister by the hand to accompany her to the kingdom of the saints.

Affectionately,

Rome, 9 June 2020

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan