

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,

The Divine Master once again visited us today, the Feast of the Transfiguration. At 4:30 a.m. (local time), he knocked on the door of the Cidade Regina community of São Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself our sister:

PEGORER HERMELINDA – SR. MARIA JOSÉ
born in S. Cruz do Rio Pardo (Botucatu), Brazil, on 24 April 1930.

Sr. Maria José was the eldest of two other sisters (Sr. Claudia and Sr. Angelina), both of whom followed her in the Pauline vocation and to whom she was very close.

She entered the Congregation in the Divine Master community, São Paulo, on 31 July 1943 at the age of thirteen. After a long period of initial formation, during which she became an expert in the art of bookbinding, she made her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 8 December 1949, Feast of the Immaculate Conception. She spent her Juniorate experiencing the joys and fatigues of both the diffusion and technical apostolates, the latter of which was well suited to her hard-working, serious and quiet personality. After her perpetual profession, made in 1955 in the presence of Prima Maestra Thecla, who was visiting our communities of Brazil at the time, she returned to the diffusion apostolate in the community of Salvador Bahia.

The life of this sister was at the same time simple and great: *simple* because except for two brief periods spent in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, she lived almost always in the different FSP communities of the São Paulo metropolis: the Divine Master, Alberione Institute and Queen of Apostles houses (also serving as local superior of the last-mentioned). And her life was *great* because she lived her fidelity to the full in the midst of her daily duties, carried out with simplicity, in a spirit of continual gratitude for the gift of the Pauline vocation that had made her life beautiful and fruitful.

Sr. M. José was especially involved in the province's technical apostolate and administration offices, manifesting in these services her talents for precision, punctuality and the ability to serenely carry out duties that were often dry and offered little apostolic gratification. Our sisters remember her as a person who was very demanding with herself, very observant of the rules, and faithful in cultivating and continually revitalizing her relationship with her sole Lord and Master.

The death of her sister, Sr. Angelina, in 2015, and the onset of Alzheimer's disease at about the same time, caused Sr. M. José to become even more quiet and withdrawn, but she remained in peace, ready to do whatever was deemed best for her. She spent the last years of her life in the Cidade Regina community, São Paulo, recollected in prayer, in profound personal contact with the Blessed Mother, manifested by the beads of the rosary that slipped continually through her fingers. Together with the Virgin of Silence, she listened to and preserved the Word in her heart, nourishing it with her own vigilant and expectant silence, which certainly opened her to the mystery of God.

Today, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, it is beautiful to think that the Divine Master quietly called Sr. M. José apart from the crowd, and led her alone with him up the lofty mountain of his presence to include her among the intimate friends to whom he wanted to reveal the splendor of his glory.

May the Father's beneficent gaze rest on our beloved sister and on the many others who in these days have been overshadowed by his luminous cloud, and may his words of salvation and love resound in their hearts.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 6 August 2020
Feast of the Transfiguration