



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,

We received the news that at 12:15 p.m. today (local time), one of the members of our Nazca community (Buenos Aires), Argentina, was called to celebrate Easter eternally in the kingdom of heaven:

AMELONG SR. MATILDE
born in Rosario, Argentina on 12 October 1953.

Sr. Matilde's personality was characterized by dynamism, joy, fervor in the apostolate and pastoral work for vocations, and competent, wise and responsible commitment in accompanying the economic sector of her province and its individual communities. Fragile in appearance, she was gifted with an uncommon spiritual strength that allowed her to take on, in faith, very painful personal and family situations.

She entered the Congregation at the age of 13 on 11 January 1966 in house of Buenos Aires. After a time of initial formation and several apostolic experiences in the areas of book promotion and diffusion, she made her novitiate in the Cidade Regina community in São Paulo, Brazil, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 25 January 1979. Six years later she made her perpetual profession in Buenos Aires. As a young professed, Sr. Matilde continued her studies and at the same time, in different communities in Buenos Aires, dedicated herself to promotion work, the writing and administration sectors of the Argentine edition of the *Family Magazine*, audiovisual production and book center activities. She was a person who possessed a truly global and pastoral vision of the Pauline mission.

In Mendoza, Sr. Matilde continued the book center apostolate, while also completing her studies and editing a diocesan ecclesial publication. In 1990, she obtained a License in social communications and was appointed provincial councilor for the apostolate. In the following three years, she served as provincial bursar and was later confirmed as councilor and vicar. She continued her service to the sisters as superior of the Nazca community of Buenos Aires, and for another two mandates she was provincial councilor for formation, inserted in the communities of Tucuman and Mendoza, where she was also head of the audiovisual sector. Sr. Matilde then spent 13 consecutive years in Asunción, Paraguay, offering her collaboration and creativity so that our small FSP presence in that country might grow in the apostolate and in pastoral work for vocations. The workload was demanding: in addition to being bursar and responsible for the lay collaborators in the beautiful and busy Asunción book center, she was also in charge of vocation activities. In addition, as a member of Paraguay's Conference of Major Superiors, she was the head of its communications sector. Sr. Matilde was truly the soul of our FSP community and of the whole diocese. Everyone was struck by her perpetual good cheer and simple and poor lifestyle, as well as by her ability to become involved in the different events of the Province and Congregation. In fact, she participated in two of our General Chapters and other meetings on the international level. In the 1990's, she was also a competent and enthusiastic member of the FSP international team of study on communications.

In 2016, Sr. Matilde's life took an unexpected turn: she was diagnosed as suffering from a tumor that required long periods of chemotherapy, which she underwent in the community of Nazca, Argentina. Without thought for herself, she took advantage of those opportunities to communicate joy and an invigorating breath of the Spirit to the sick sisters around her. In the last months of Sr. Matilde's life, the cancer gave her a brief respite, which prompted her to ask to be assigned to our Montevideo community in Uruguay and work in the book center. She was very happy for the chance to help out there, focusing her attention on the needs of the Church and the people to whom she felt sent.

Last year, Sr. Matilde participated with great fervor in a course of Ignatian spiritual exercises centered on healing, after which she confided that she had experienced the love and tenderness of the Lord, who was healing her in his own way and drawing her to himself. From that time on, she began to prepare herself with profound awareness to live her own upcoming "Easter," even coining a phrase to describe the experience, saying: *I am 'eastering'*.... to express the very personal journey by which God the Father was leading her from this world to himself. And Sr. Matilde lived this Easter experience to the full, feeling herself united to the Paschal Mystery of Christ, assimilated to him so that everyone might encounter the Truth.

Affectionately,

Rome, 19 October 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan