

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

At 10:12 p.m. yesterday, local time, the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Queen, visited our community of São Paulo, Brazil, to call to fullness of life our sister:

NUERNBERG LUCIA – SR. MARIA EDVIGES
born in Bento Baixo (Criciuma), Brazil on 1 January 1926.

Of German background, she was born in the state of Santa Catarina in southern Brazil, into a large, close-knit family, in which she learned an unshakable faith and a great love for life.

She entered the Congregation on 9 January 1942 in the Divine Master community, São Paulo. She made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 17 February 1946, seventy-five years ago.

The Lord gave Sr. M. Edviges an abundance of years as an FSP, which she spent in joy, enthusiasm and a deep spirit of gratitude. Because of her unflinching love for vocations, our sisters of Brazil considered her to be their “vocationist par excellence.” Her bright and happy face, her convincing words and above all her witness to the Gospel acted like a magnet on girls, who were especially attracted to her fervor in living and proclaiming the Gospel to everyone. And their parents, trusting in her authoritative and wise words, willingly let their daughters enter the Congregation.

Sr. M. Edviges was also a very ardent apostle: the fire in her heart allowed her to give wings to the Word of God, particularly in the large diocese of Porto Alegre, where over a period of almost 20 non-consecutive years she reached countless families, schools and businesses. She had learned from the lips of the Founder that “The soul of an apostle of the Good Press is first of all in love with God.... She fills her own heart with him and then fills the hearts of others...” (FSP31, p. 98).

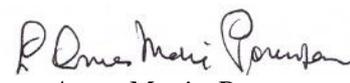
In her simplicity, Sr. M. Edviges perceived that she was a mediator between the Divine Master and the people she met. She brought their needs, concerns and yearnings to him. Our sisters remember how scrupulous she was to end her daily apostolate by 5:00 p.m. so as not to miss even one moment of prayer time. She prayed especially for the girls she met, asking the Lord to help them discover the Pauline charism as the means to respond to him in a radical way and thus lead fulfilled lives. She was proud to have accompanied into the Congregation vocations who then went on to become “pillars” in our Brazilian Province and in the whole Institute: superiors at all levels, formators, sisters on the front lines of the apostolate....

In 1962, Sr. M. Edviges and Sr. Amalia Pescador had the joy of opening an FSP community in Brasília, the country’s capital, even though they met with problems of all kinds. They called Brasília “the capital of hope” because the planning of this foundation included everything except a house for the sisters!

From 1978 onward, Sr. M. Edviges was a member of the big “Cidade Regina” community in São Paulo, where she carried out many services ranging from the technical apostolate to the kitchen, from the vegetable garden to the flower garden. She loved above all her service as sacristan, taking every care to make the chapel a beautiful, clean and welcoming place. She adorned the altar with her flower arrangements, which were a tangible expression of her love for her Spouse. In fact, she often said: “Everything for Jesus,” who was indeed the sole reason for her life.

Sr. M. Edviges spent her last years in prayer, self-offering, and the serene acceptance of illness. Her life will continue to radiate light and to be a sign of what the grace of God can work in the depths of each person. We entrust to her our sisters who carry out the vocation apostolate, in the conviction that she will urge them to proclaim to the young women they meet: “Christ is alive! He is our hope and he brings youth to our world!” (CV 1).

Affectionately,


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 22 August 2021