

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dear Sisters

Last night at 10.30 p.m. (local time), in the San Juan de Dios Hospital of Ramos Mejia (Buenos Aires, Argentina) one of our sisters was called to eternal life:

PREZIOSO MARIA Sr CECILIA

born in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on 2 December 1925

Sr. Cecilia was a truly "precious" presence in our Congregation and in the province of Argentina. Her enthusiasm for the Pauline apostolate was proverbial. Until just a few months ago, she was a bearer of light to the small book center located at the entrance to the Buenos Aires Nazca community, her "beloved book center". But throughout her life she gave the richness of her personality and talents to the development of the Pauline mission.

She entered the Congregation in Buenos Aires Nazca on 1 May 1940, at the age of fifteen. She made her novitiate in San Miguel (about forty kilometres from Buenos Aires) and made her first profession there on 20 August 1944. Soon afterwards she learned to love the book apostolate and to give it all her energy and communication skills, doing so in the communities of Rosario, Santa Fe and Valparaiso (Chile) where she lived.

In 1964 she was chosen, together with two other sisters, to initiate the Pauline presence in Montevideo (Uruguay). From the outset, the small community made itself known and appreciated through its involvement in the catechetical ministry of the diocese, the distribution of books in parishes, colleges and military barracks, and the opening of a large and beautiful book center which soon became the heart of the city.

Sr. Cecilia had a beautiful "pen" and soon had the opportunity to make the most of her writing talent by attending a journalism course at the Mariano Moreno High School in 1972, becoming a full-fledged professional journalist. From 1972 to 1989, she devoted herself to editing books, audio-visuals and radio while working in the communities of Buenos Aires and Montevideo (Uruguay). Not only did she manage the editorial but she also wrote books for children and adults, especially in the area of spirituality and formation. These texts, which were much appreciated, gave a breath of hope and joy to many people in search of meaning and above all in search of God. With satisfaction and elegance, Sr Cecilia made herself available to sign her books at exhibits and at the Buenos Aires International Book Fair, one of the most important events in the Latin American publishing market.

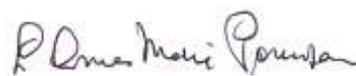
For three non-consecutive mandates, she was superior of the community of Santa Fe. In Tucuman she was in charge of administration and was especially dedicated to training the laity in the area of pastoral communication. In 2010, already at an advanced age, she was entrusted with the task of superior of the community of Montevideo (Uruguay). She was happy when she was able to put herself at the service of the large and spacious book center or when she enriched the local products by expressing her creativity through attractive mini-media which was much appreciated by the people.

In 2013, she returned to the house in Buenos Aires Nazca where she had lived so many happy years. In her spare time, free from her work in the book center, she continued to serve as a councilor and in various community services. In 2019, she had to undergo emergency surgery due to an intestinal infarction, but even this did not stop her apostolic commitment. She was happy to be in contact with the people of the neighbourhood who frequented the book center especially on Sundays during the Eucharistic celebration in the church dedicated to St Paul. A few weeks ago, she had to be hospitalised because of a fall, from which she had recovered well. A cerebral ischemia, which struck her two days ago, was the immediate cause of her death.

We thank this dear sister for never having put down her "pen", for having been herself, a living and joyful communication of the message she continually transmitted and which, for so many years, had involved her entire life.

Affectionately,

Rome, 9 August 2021


sr Anna Maria Parenzan