

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

We received the news that at about noon yesterday (local time) our good and merciful Father visited the Cidade Regina community of São Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself our sister:

FERRARETO NATALIA – SR. MARIA LETICIA
born in Birigui (São Paulo), Brazil, on 1 January 1930.

Sr. M. Leticia entered the Congregation in the house of São Paulo DM on 14 July 1946, at the age of 16, in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. Timotea, who died in 1998. She quickly dedicated herself to itinerant diffusion of the Word of God in the populous state of São Paulo and in Rio de Janeiro. After her first profession, made on 8 December 1949 in the Divine Master community of São Paulo, Sr. Leticia continued to enthusiastically and zealously spread the Gospel, prayer books and formative material in the factories, hospitals, barracks and schools of the Brazilian capital. She was a dynamic and tireless apostle, who took advantage of every opportunity to make Jesus known to as many people as possible.

A creative person, she always tried to present our publications in an appealing way. In the FSP graphics sector in Curitiba, where she worked for about 12 years, and in the typography in Porto Alegre, she made a valid contribution to improving the quality of our editions, making them more suitable for the people for whom they were intended.

Our sisters remember Sr. Leticia as a very competent and hard-working presence in the book center apostolate, welcoming clients with warmth and cordiality. She intuitively grasped the needs of people from all levels of society and offered them suitable products. Over the years, she carried out her tireless apostolic activities and witnessed to her great love for the Pauline mission in the communities of Belo Horizonte, Fortaleza, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, São Paulo DM, São Luis, Vitória and Niterói. Convinced of her need for greater preparation in the apostolate, she took every opportunity to update herself by studying and reading the texts she was disseminating. She even obtained permission to spend some time with our sisters in Boston, U.S.A., so as to learn English and thus be of better help to the many tourists who flocked to our numerous, well-stocked book centers in Brazil. From the Founder, she had learned to view every Pauline book center as a church, a place of light and preaching. In fact, Fr. Alberione said: “Our book centers spread light... May St. Paul dominate [the book center] environment.... Your apostolate aims to form a new mentality in society, which means giving it a new imprint and a new direction.”

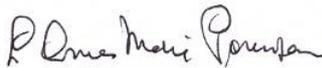
Sr. M. Leticia was fortified by her deep love for the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles: she turned to this sweet Mother with filial affection, spoke about her and spread devotion to her. During the time in which she worked in the typography, the *Hail Mary's* that the sisters shouted above the noise of the machines as they worked created an atmosphere of recollection and prayer.

In 2005, Sr. Leticia was transferred to the Cidade Regina community of São Paulo, where she carried out various community services and continued her commitment to personal updating, reading and study. She had assimilated the Founder's teaching profoundly and encouraged the other sisters to do the same.

A few days ago, she experienced some heart problems and was hospitalized, but her hospital stay was brief. She was already back home when her “hour” arrived yesterday. Although her call to eternity was sudden, she was ready to meet the Lord and receive the prize reserved for good apostles, for those who have fought the battle of faith and responded with generosity and joy to the gift received.

Affectionately,

Rome, 25 September 2021


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan