

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

The Lord has visited us once again. At 8:32 a.m. today (local time), he called to himself one of our sisters, who was a patient in the Santa Barbara Clinic, Bogotá, Colombia:

GÓMEZ GÓMEZ – SR. MARTHA
born in Manizales, Colombia, on 29 March 1948.

Sr. Martha was a generous, thoughtful, studious sister, with a passion for classical music. Her straightforward gaze and smiling face manifested her sincere search for God and her profound love for the Pauline charism, which she had been able to deepen by participating in the formation course on the charism of the Pauline Family in Rome.

She entered the Congregation in the Las Orquídeas community of Bogotá on 19 March 1967. She made her profession in this community on 29 June 1972, followed by her perpetual profession six years later. She confided to the Superior General with deep joy: “I am very happy but very aware of my responsibility to the Church, the world and the Congregation. Because of this, I ask for your prayers so that I may truly live my entire life according to the Pauline charism. This is my deepest desire.” Sr. Martha always nourished these sentiments in order to feel less unworthy of the ministry of formation to which she was being oriented.

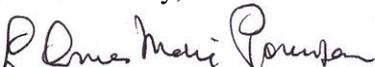
As a young professed, she had the opportunity to carry out the book center apostolate in the community of Cali and was then called to Bogotá to accompany the group of postulants as a teacher and later as their assistant. After her perpetual profession, she was assigned to the Bogotá book center and the following year she was entrusted with the formation of the circumscription’s young women while also carrying out the office of provincial secretary. Following this, she was asked to work in the Cucuta book center and then the one in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In Brazil, she had the opportunity to further her studies in psychology by attending summer school sessions for teachers.

Upon her return to her homeland in 1987, Sr. Martha was reconfirmed in the service of formator and appointed provincial councilor for the apostolate. During the following mandate, she served as the councilor responsible for formation and studies. In that capacity, she participated in the Congregation’s international meeting for junior formation directors that was held in Rome in 1990. Afterward, she was asked to serve as superior of the community of Cucuta and then that of Manizales, while continuing her role as formator of the pre-postulants.

When that term of office ended, she was assigned to the circumscription’s publishing sector, in particular the marketing department, although she also contributed to other publishing activities. During this period, she wrote: “I haven’t been able to fulfill my dream of living a more interior rhythm of life.... But the Lord is with me in this and in everything else that I do. I keep my faith alive thanks to his gift of himself to me every day.” Sr. Martha was a very sound and profound Pauline apostle. She wanted Jesus to be formed in her and made every effort to allow him to do this.

About ten years ago, Sr. Martha was diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. She welcomed this “visit” of the Lord with serenity, allowing him to continue to form her, especially in this new stage of her life. Because she felt a compelling need to live the apostolate of reparation, she regularly invited the other sisters to join her in praying for communication professionals, saying: “Let us pray in reparation for all those who do evil through the media.” She willingly contributed to community and apostolic life through the services possible to her, especially in the circumscription’s typography and areas of the technical apostolate staffed by the semi-invalid sisters.

But little by little Sr. Martha’s health worsened and recently she came down with other disturbances that made hospitalization necessary—a hospital stay from which she never returned home because today, purified and refined by the many health problems she bore so patiently, the Lord invited to quench her thirst with the water gushing forth from the fount of eternal life. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 15 November 2021