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CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that today, at 6:57 a.m. local time, the Lord visited Santa Rita Hospital, São Paulo, Brazil, so as to call to himself and fill with his light and joy our sister:

**MICHELS MARIA ANA – SR. MARIA ANGELICA**  
**born in San Bonifacio (Tubarão), Brazil, on 26 July 1926.**

Sr. Angelica belonged to a big and beautiful family of German roots. Her name was an entire program of life for her: indeed, she was considered an “angel,” thanks to her simplicity, innocence, tenderness and sweetness, her calm and gentle voice, and her love for all her sisters, especially the younger ones. She was never sad or angry; instead, she had a smile for everyone and words of great acceptance and wisdom drawn from her profound relationship with the Divine Master and the Virgin Mary, whom she invoked through continual prayer of the rosary. Her life was truly an unceasing praise of the Lord.

She entered the Congregation in the house of São Paulo/DM on 6 Jan. 1942, at the age of 16. She spent her period of initial formation continuing her studies and spreading the Gospel to families, businesses and collectivities. On 17 Feb. 1946, more than seventy-five years ago, she made her first profession in the community of São Paulo/DM, along with 7 other sisters. Maestra Thecla was present for the occasion and probably also Fr. Alberione, who at that time was visiting the communities of the PF in that city. After her profession, Sr. Angelica continued her apostolic activities in the dioceses of Porto Alegre and Pelotas. It was in this last community, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, that she lived with her sisters the difficult foundation period of the house and made her perpetual profession there on 17 Feb. 1952.

In 1955, she was assigned to the kitchen—a service she carried out for over 25 years in São Paulo/DM, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte. Sr. Angelica was an excellent cook, eager to give the best of herself to this work so that the sisters could renew their strength and energy for their mission. She was aware that through her silent and prayerful apostolate, carried out behind the scenes, she enabled those on the “front lines” to realize their own apostolic activities more fruitfully.

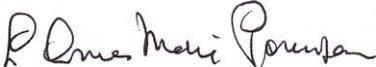
She also performed various household duties or made rosaries in the communities of Curitiba, Niteroi and finally in the Cidade Regina community of São Paulo, where she spent the last 5 years of her life. For Sr. Angelica, everything she did was an apostolate aimed at furthering the Kingdom of God, the greater good of the community, and the salvation of the many people seeking the Lord without even being aware of it. Her every problem became lighter because it was offered so that all those called to the religious life would correspond to the gift they had received. She had deeply understood the Founder’s assertion: “The apostolate that *costs one’s life* is the most precious gift God has given to the Daughters of St. Paul.”

During the last period of her life, while she was in the intensive care unit of the hospital due to an arterial thrombosis and septic shock, Sr. Angelica expressed her continual thanks to everyone. When her provincial superior asked her to offer her sufferings for vocations and the Pauline mission, she replied with a big smile: “A person cannot live for herself; she has to live for others.” To another sister who dropped by to see her, she said with complete conviction: “We must always aim for holiness. Like Fr. Alberione said, ‘Strive for holiness!’” Sr. Angelica’s life taught everyone she met the meaning of goodness, meekness, and love for the Church. Perhaps she often recalled the words of the Founder, spoken the day after her first profession: “What does profession mean?” he asked. “It means committing ourselves to the ‘profession’ of becoming holy. And how long should we do this? Until death!”

Sr. Angelica passed to eternity as serenely and peacefully as she had lived her long life, leaving her sisters the rich heritage of what was most precious to her: love. Today, the Memorial of St. Lucy, let us place our sister in the arms of our heavenly Father, asking him to bestow on her the double crown of virginity and daily martyrdom, and to lead her quickly into the glory of the saints.

Affectionately,

Rome, 13 December 2021

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan