

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 8:15 p.m. yesterday, an ardent Pauline apostle in our Cidade Regina community of São Paulo, Brazil, concluded her “race” to heaven:

CORREIA NOGUEIRA CLELIA – SR. MARIA
born in Cruzeiro do Sul, Brazil, on 22 April 1928.

In 1969, Sr. Maria expressed the deep convictions that motivated her life: “When I made my consecration in the Pauline religious life,” she wrote, “my only intention was to be available to serve God in everything; to always do his holy will as manifested through the Congregation and its superiors. Today, with even greater awareness, I renew my readiness to dedicate myself completely to the service of God. I am happy in the apostolic sector in which I work. I feel the need for more training in order to carry out my service better, but I make no distinction between one office or another—all are means of sanctification when exercised out of love for God and the good of one’s neighbor.” Today, these words can serve as a summary of Sr. Maria’s life, which she lived with enthusiasm and a truly remarkable apostolic spirit.

She entered the Congregation in the house of São Paulo DM, on 5 May 1948. She made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. During her time of temporary vows she had the opportunity to complete her academic studies, which she immediately put to good use as a teacher and formation assistant, while also working as a member of the editorial staff of the Brazilian edition of “Famiglia Cristiana” magazine. In 1965, after a 3-year term as superior of the Fortaleza community, she was appointed head of the recording sector, which became one of the pillars of the FSP apostolate in Brazil. Sr. Maria had a special ability to intuit the musical trends of society and she zealously strove to promote new talent among artists, musicians, and composers, some of whom, like Fr. Zezinho, made history in the field of religious music and made remarkable contributions to evangelization worldwide.

From 1967-70, she continued to promote the Pauline apostolate as provincial councilor and later, for 8 years, as audiovisual production coordinator. Politically, Brazil was under a period of dictatorship and Sr. Maria often had to use all her diplomatic skill to get around the strict government censorship so as to prevent the Word of God from being imprisoned. In 1977, she was able to take a break from this demanding work and devoted herself to book center and administration activities in Belo Horizonte. Four years later, she was back in São Paulo DM, in charge of magazine promotion and also of the computer sector. Sr. Maria was truly a multifaceted and multivalent apostle, capable of moving competently from audiovisual editing, to computers, to administration. Her studies in philosophy, theology, literature, administration and law made it possible for her to do this, but it was above all her passion for the apostolate that gave impetus to her ceaseless creative adaptation in using the different languages of communication. Her sociability, serenity, objectivity in approaching reality (including political situations), as well as her wisdom and foresight, made her an authoritative sister, a true point of reference for all.

From 2001 to 2019, during which she was a member of the Cidade Regina community due to her declining health, she devoted herself to the multimedia sector, becoming the heart and soul of its production activities. She personally drafted the sector’s video scripts and competently accompanied the production of numerous videos with underlying social, biographical and catechetical themes. In her last years, her vision was so cloudy she could barely see, but she continued to radiate beauty, harmony and wisdom with her entire being.

As we thank the Lord for the gift of this sister, whose passion for the apostolate was truly extraordinary, let us entrust to her intercession the young women who in these days are offering their lives to the Lord by means of the Pauline vocation so that, like Paul, urged on by the love of Christ, they may spread the Word of reconciliation and hope everywhere with faith and courage.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 22 June 2022