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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 8:00 p.m. last night (local time), as the Liturgy ushered in the Solemnity of Christ, the King of the Universe, one of the members of our Mexico Capri community was called to heaven to glorify the Lord forever:

BECERRA AYALA MARIA GUADALUPE – SR. MARIA DEL ROSARIO
born in Leon Gto., Mexico, on 11 January 1929.

She was the sixth child of a large and very religious family, which had given her a well-grounded human and cultural upbringing and enriched her with a tender devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

She entered the Congregation on 30 August 1951, in the community of Mexico Capri, after obtaining a teacher's degree while still at home with her family. The Daughters of St. Paul had arrived in Mexico three years earlier and she had come to know them through the simple vocation leaflets that the sisters sowed everywhere they went, especially on their visits to homes and parishes. She made her novitiate in the Mexico Capri community, concluding it with her first profession on 8 December 1955.

Sr. M. del Rosario's academic skills were of great help in the formation of candidates who needed to regularize their studies on both the primary and secondary levels, and from the very beginning she was also entrusted with editorial work.

In 1961, a period in Rome gave Sr. M. del Rosario the opportunity to perfect her Italian and get to know the places of the Congregation's origins. When she returned to her own country, she continued to devote herself to proofreading, to translating various publications, and to teaching a wide range of subjects to the younger sisters. To perfect her abilities, she took courses in theology, French, English, and technical education. She also received training in the area of audiovisuals—an apostolate to which she made a valuable contribution.

Sr. M. del Rosario lived for some time in the Ciudad Juarez community, where she worked in the book center. She was a simple and kind-hearted sister, with a deep devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness and queen of all the peoples of America. A cheerful and sociable person, it was not difficult for her to establish sound and enduring friendships. The other sisters affectionately called her "the prof" (the teacher) precisely because of her dedication to teaching and formation.

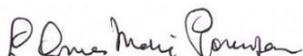
But Sr. M. del Rosario also made valuable contributions to the development of the Pauline mission, particularly through her collaboration in translating into Spanish the Italian magazine *Via, Verità e Vita*, and her efforts to stimulate the production of films and other audiovisuals that enjoyed a wide circulation in Mexico. In the community, she was always ready to offer her help wherever there was need: from phone and door duties to refectory services and to other needs of the sisters.

She had a great esteem and affection for the Pauline priests and other members of the Pauline Family present in large numbers in Mexico. Her smiling face revealed her readiness to establish bonds of cordiality with everyone. In recent years, her health began to deteriorate little by little, and she slowly lost her self-sufficiency due to a crippling form of foot arthritis. A few months ago, she was hospitalized for severe kidney problems.

Yesterday morning, Sr. M. del Rosario's physical situation worsened notably. Her life dimmed like that of a candle at the end of its wick, releasing the sweet fragrance of a life offered joyfully to the Lord through her dedication to the needs of her sisters, her companions on the journey to heaven. Kidney failure and coronary heart disease were the proximate causes of her death.

May the promise made by Jesus in today's Liturgy reassure us that our sister has been lovingly welcomed into heaven today by Christ, the King of the Universe (cf. Lk. 23:43).

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 20 November 2022