

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 11:40 a.m. today (local time), the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Mother Thecla Home in Pasay City, Philippines, to invite one of our sisters there to rejoice and exult within him forever in the Kingdom of heaven:

**JUSTO PURIFICATION – SR. MARIA COSTANZA  
born in Manila, Philippines, on 27 January 1929.**

Just two days ago, Sr. M. Costanza celebrated her birthday, rejoicing with deep gratitude for the gift of her life and the many other gifts she had received from God, especially her vocation, the Pauline Family, membership in the Congregation and in her community. On that day, she clearly revealed with a big smile on her face, her greatest desire: heaven. All her life she had yearned for paradise, preparing for it in great detail, even telling the sisters what they should do at her deathbed. She left everyone the example of an authentic Daughter of St. Paul. She was zealous, committed, dedicated to the Pauline mission even in her old age; a sister who greatly loved the Founder, M. Thecla and, in a particular way, the first FSP missionaries who had launched the Institute in the Philippines.

She entered the Congregation in the community of Lipa on 24 May 1952, encouraged in her vocational discernment by her pastor, Pauline priest Fr. Casolari. She underwent her initial formation in Lipa and made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1956. Afterward, she carried out itinerant diffusion of the Word of God in the extensive diocese of Manila. In 1959 she joyfully welcomed M. Thecla's decision to open a community in Taiwan and was one of the first sisters to help found the Kaoshiung community that same year. Afterward, she was transferred to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in 1961 and returned to the Philippines the following year.

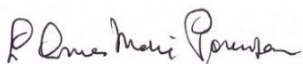
In the communities of Cagayan de Oro, Vigan and Naga, Sr. M. Costanza devoted herself to spreading the Gospel with great zeal, holding book displays in schools, parishes and institutes. In 1969, she was transferred to Pasay City, where she worked in the bindery, at the reception desk and in the kitchen. She was always very attentive to guests, especially the sisters who came to Pasay City from the circumscription's various communities or from abroad. She was very faithful to community life and was grateful for every little service done for her, generously sharing with others the gifts she received. Inspired by a genuine apostolic spirit, she took advantage even of hospitalizations to communicate her faith and share with those she met the gift of God that had touched her life.

She once said, "When people ask me, 'How are you?' I answer, 'I am always happy. always joyful, always immersed in prayer and always busy, thank God. I get enough rest, I sleep well, and I have sweet dreams....'" She then went on to say: "God is good—always! I pray the *Te Deum* and the *Magnificat* for all the blessings and graces I have received from him and for the many prayers of mine that he has answered. We will see each other in heaven, but for now I have to follow Jesus in carrying the crosses of life... With deep gratitude I thank the Most Holy Trinity—God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit—for my Pauline vocation, for all my superiors and formators, my fellow FSPs, my parents and friends. I thank him for the Pauline Family, its cooperators and benefactors, the Pope, the Church and all God's children."

Over the years, Sr. M. Costanza was hospitalized repeatedly, sometimes even for months at a time. These medical interludes constituted the cross she felt called to bear in following Jesus. She wrote, "At the end of my life, I will continue to thank God for the cross I have carried because it is through the cross that he unites us to himself." Today God the Father granted Sr. M. Costanza's great dream: to finally see him face-to-face in heaven. We thank her for all the good she accomplished in her many years among us, for all the love she spread wherever she went, and for her desire to make the beauty of the Faith known to everyone.

Affectionately,

Rome, 29 January 2023

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan