



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

We just received the news that in the heart of the night, one of the sisters of our Cidade Regina community, São Paulo, Brazil, suffered a heart attack, opening her to a new life in the kingdom of heaven:

SARTOR VITTORIA – SR. VALERIA
born in Três de Maio (RS), Brazil, on 22 September 1932.

Sr. Valeria was a responsible and serene sister who loved her Pauline vocation deeply and lived it with dedication and generosity in the different situations in which she was called to serve the Lord.

She entered our Congregation in the house in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on 10 July 1947, at the age of fifteen. While waiting to reach adulthood, she had the opportunity to learn and become proficient in the art of typography, especially the book-binding phase. She made her novitiate in the São Paulo DM community, concluding it with her first profession on 25 January 1953. With a deep sense of commitment, she then devoted herself to spreading the Word of God in the city and state of Rio de Janeiro through itinerant diffusion and contact with the people through her work in our big, beautiful book center.

From 1957 to 1964 she assisted the Province's formators in the apostolic preparation of the aspirants, especially in the technical sphere which she headed. In 1969, after an interval in the FSP book center in Rio de Janeiro, she was once more placed in charge of bookbinding activities in the communities of São Paulo DM and Porto Alegre. Sr. Valeria was understanding and patient with everyone, ready to teach the young women all the technical details that would ensure that each book they produced was perfect. Above all, she communicated to them her passion for the Gospel and for vocation work. But one of her most noteworthy characteristics was her care and assistance of our sick sisters. Having received special training for this, she carried out an excellent service as a nurse in the São Paulo DM community.

In 1991, the Congregation's Superior General asked Sr. Valeria if she was willing to accept a transfer to the Generalate in Rome to take care of the community refectory and adjoining areas. She was one of the first FSPs from abroad to be inserted into this community and she carried out the services asked of her with discretion, kindness and great love. A quiet, unassuming person with a soft voice, she was very industrious and worked hard to keep the part of the house entrusted to her care sparkling clean. Her presence and work style did much to enhance the community's renown for offering a warm welcome and family atmosphere to sisters of many different cultures, customs, languages and habits. Sr. Valeria was above all a person of peace, always ready to downplay strained or difficult situations. She was eager to learn about the Italian culture in which her roots were anchored, taking every opportunity to get to know the places of her family's origins and listen to the stories of the sisters who had lived with Fr. Alberione and M. Thecla.

When she returned to Brazil in 2001, she was assigned first to the community of Via Humberto I and then to that of Cidade Regina, where she dedicated herself to the sick sisters and willingly accompanied them to their appointments at various hospitals in the city. Her spirit of self-donation and strong sense of responsibility made her ever-ready to help those who were worse off than she was. Very reserved by nature, she cultivated her spiritual life conscientiously through profound prayer and meditation on the Word of God.

In her later years, Sr. Valeria was stricken with both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. Without lament, she embraced quietly and with great faith this new passage of the Lord in her life. Her wheelchair became the altar from which she offered herself to God in a spirit of sacrifice for vocations and for the mission and sanctification of all the Institutes of the Pauline Family.

As preparations for the celebration of our Interchapter Meeting accelerate in Brazil, we entrust this important congregational event to Sr. Valeria, asking that it may truly become an opportunity for us to allow ourselves *to be transformed by the Spirit, to walk together and to generate life.*

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 28 August 2023