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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 5:00 p.m. yesterday (local time), God our good Father visited our Thecla Merlo community of Santiago del Chile to call to himself one of our sisters, while the rest of the community clustered around her bed in prayer:

**MANCILLA AURISTELA – SR. MARIA AMALIA  
born in Valparaiso, Chile on 18 April 1929.**

Sr. M. Amalia, one of our first Chilean vocations, entered the Congregation in the house in Valparaiso on 8 December 1949, a year after the community opened. Our courageous FSP missionaries who had finally found a house of their own, wrote in the FSP information bulletin in August 1949: “From the cramped room behind the book center, we finally moved into a small cozy apartment, making it possible for us to accept our first vocations.” Since that new foundation belonged to the circumscription of Argentina, Sr. M. Amalia made her initial formation and novitiate in Buenos Aires, concluding that stage of her life with her first profession on 19 March 1953.

As a young professed sister, she worked in the technical apostolate in Buenos Aires, after which, in 1956, she returned to Chile to carry out itinerant diffusion, taking the Gospel to families and schools in the diocese of Santiago. She made her perpetual profession in Buenos Aires on 19 March 1958, and then returned to her own country, where she disseminated the catechisms that were being printed in increasing numbers at that time. She also carried out missionary trips to many parishes around the countryside, helping to prepare adults for baptism and the various sacraments.

In 1973, Sr. M. Amalia was transferred to Antofagasta, Chile, and 6 years later she was assigned to the community of Albano, Italy, where she worked in the kitchen and laundry room of Queen of Apostles Hospital, and also helped to care for the patients. Many of our sisters in the Albano community remember her smiling face, her Latin American accent, her deep devotion to her family, and the generosity with which she carried out her services. Before returning to the Chilean Delegation in 1996 to take care of her seriously ill mother, she was a member of the Generalate, Sassari and Naples communities, where she dedicated herself to various household services. Although Sr. M. Amalia had not completed any special studies, she was a person rich in the wisdom of God.

When her mother died in 2006, she returned to Chile, where she carried out many duties in the Santiago community and in the technical apostolate. Over the past decade her health had been steadily deteriorating due to Alzheimer's disease. She accepted her advancing age as a normal part of life, radiating joy and intensifying her prayer for vocations and for the sisters involved in the Pauline apostolate “on the front lines.” She continually interceded for them to the Virgin Mary by means of the rosary that never left her hands. Until her last days, she offered a beautiful testimony of serene acceptance of God’s will for her.

Fifteen days ago, Sr. Amalia’s declining condition worsened due to the onset of pneumonia. Although she had to struggle to swallow, her beautiful smile never faded from her lips. Quietly and gently she fell asleep in the Lord, sustained by the loving presence and prayers of the sisters of her community. She took her last breath as they recited the formula of profession.

We are sure that the grace of God, which sustained Sr. Amalia on the path of fidelity throughout her long life, accompanied her in a particular way at this decisive moment of her last true profession, expressed in the extreme giving of her life. May God, our good Father, now grant her fullness of life and a beautiful welcome into the ever-growing Pauline Family in heaven.

Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, 21 September 2023