

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

At 4:45 p.m. yesterday (local time), our heavenly Father visited the Cidade Regina community of São Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself a beautiful Pauline apostle who was preparing to celebrate her 100th birthday this coming June:

GIGLIOTTI ROSA – Sr. MARIA FILIPPINA
born in S. Eudoxia (São Carlos SP), Brazil, on 10 June 1924.

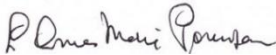
Her sisters describe her as “a wonderful person, an authentic Pauline who radiated joy from every pore of her body.” Small in stature but a giant in apostolic fervor, her face was always illuminated by her smile and enthusiasm to spread the Word to which she had dedicated her life.

Sr. M. Filippina entered our Congregation in the house in São Paulo DM, Brazil, on 25 March 1944, the Feast of the Annunciation. She made her novitiate in that community, concluding it with her first profession on 17 February 1946. Afterward, she devoted herself with wisdom and love to the “propaganda” apostolate, that is, to itinerant diffusion of the Word in various Brazilian dioceses: first, in Porto Alegre for over twenty-five years, and then in São Paulo, Brasília, Salvador and Porto Velho. Wherever she went, she expressed a missionary passion that was truly out of the ordinary. One could sense that she was moved by the power of God and for this reason, in her simplicity, she was not afraid to approach very qualified people such as the teachers and principals of schools and universities so as to further her apostolic outreach. She longed with her whole being to make the Word of God race ahead, and thus with Pauline boldness she suggested setting up book exhibits and other formative initiatives. Young people flocked to her, fascinated by her simple statements overflowing with the Gospel. Everywhere she went, she communicated her love for the Word of God, to the point that even bishops and priests, noticing her great enthusiasm for the Pauline mission, invited her to give lectures and lead courses and retreats. Sr. M. Filippina did not have extensive theological studies but she was always ready to place at the Lord’s service what she knew and what the Spirit inspired in her during her long hours of prayer, contemplation and intimacy with him. She never tired of asking others to pray for her so that she could carry out *her beloved propaganda apostolate*, as she called it, in the best way possible.

She wrote to the Superior General, M. Ignazia Balla, from Brasília in June 1975: “I am here on a 40-day missionary visit... I want to tell you that I renew my *yes* to God once again. I am happy to be part of this Congregation and my happiness increases every day. I love my beautiful vocation as a Pauline propagandist... I want you to know, M. Ignazia, that you can always count on me. I am poor in virtues but I have the good will to become better and better. I am striving to do everything for the love of God. May my *yes* to him make me more and more generous, available, and ready to respond to his appeals:” A few months later she wrote again to re-emphasize her attitude, saying: “I feel happier every day to be a propagandist, a communicator of the Word of God!” She signed her letter with the words, “Always united in Christ, His propagandist...” *Being a propagandist* was truly her most authentic identity.

As Sr. M. Filippina advanced in age, she was finally obliged to leave the direct apostolate she loved so much, but her heart continued to embrace the world and to make her present everywhere through the apostolates of prayer and self-offering. In 2004, she was transferred to Curitiba and later to Rio de Janeiro, where she carried out numerous household services for the sisters. In 2007 she was moved to Cidade Regina (São Paulo), where she continued to serve the community in many small ways, including through the enormous amount of beautiful rosaries she hand-crafted.

We want to thank Sr. M. Filippina for the precious apostolic legacy she has left to the Church and to all of us. Having concluded her *race* to spread the Gospel and “fight the good fight” like the Apostle Paul, we are sure she is now rejoicing in the crown of righteousness that the Lord is eager to bestow on all those who long to contemplate him in all his glory (cf. 2 Tm. 4:6-8). Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 11 January 2024