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Dearest Sisters,

At 5:45 p.m. yesterday (local time), the Virgin Mary visited “Erasto Gaertenr” Hospital in Curitiba, Brazil, to open the doors of the kingdom of heaven to our sister:

**MENEGAT SR. ASSUNTA**  
**born in Nova Padua (Caxias do Sul, RS), Brazil on 9 July 1926.**

Today, while we are celebrating the “Sunday of the Word,” it is very significant to bid a final farewell to this dear sister who spent her whole life proclaiming and communicating with great enthusiasm the Word God, transformed into books, magazines, songs and images. Sr. Assunta was truly an apostle of the Word she loved so deeply. She was always concerned to make it known and to bring it into the heart of every person she met in the exercise of her mission.

She entered the Congregation in the house in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on 16 March 1944, opening the way for her younger sister, Sr Maristella, to follow in her footsteps. Assunta immediately dedicated herself to spreading the Word in the dioceses of Porto Alegre and São Paulo, and on 28 March 1948, at the end of her novitiate, she made her first profession in the Divine Master community in São Paulo. Five years later, she made a fervent perpetual profession and then continued to sow the seeds of the Gospel in the large and populous diocese of Rio de Janeiro.

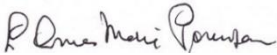
In 1960, Sr. Assunta began her long itinerary in our book center apostolate, which would characterize almost her entire Pauline life. Because of her friendliness, hospitality, ability to listen to others, as well as her competence in the presentation of various texts, Sr. Assunta was much sought after by the Center’s customers, to whom she would recommend with wisdom and insight the texts suited to their needs. She always accompanied each person with a word of encouragement, the promise of her prayers, and her assurance of her solidarity with them in the experiences they confided to her. Pelotas, São Paulo DM, Belo Horizonte, and Salvador were the apostolic Centers to which she dedicated herself as a convinced and convincing apostle, a true communicator. Always attentive to new publications, she took the time to learn about them and delve into them. Open to every new initiative, she fervently accompanied the sisters in charge of the magazine *Família Cristã (The Christian Family)*, urging them to extend their outreach as much as possible in order to bring every family a word of light and hope.

In Pelotas, Maringa and São Paulo Cavalcanti, Sr. Assunta also served as a much-loved superior thanks to her attention to each sister in the community and the apostolic impetus she infused into them. Afterward, she worked for a few years in the FSP Catechetical Center in São Paulo. Following this, she served as stockroom manager in Porto Alegre. Wherever she went, Sr. Assunta did her best to kindly guide and support the sisters in her care, feeling herself to be a sister among them.

But time was passing and Sr. Assunta was getting older. In 2010, she was transferred to Curitiba, where she continued her mission of self-offering by serving as sacristan and making rosaries to be distributed in the book centers. She loved the Blessed Mother very much and prayed to her incessantly, including during her daily walks. She tried to take care of her health, convinced that it was a gift from God to be valued. For some time her physical condition had been deteriorating and it was discovered that she had lung cancer. But Sr. Assunta welcomed even this suffering serenely, happy to have something to offer God for vocations.

Let us entrust a good outcome of today’s “Sunday of the Word” to our dear sister, asking that all the faithful will read the Holy Scriptures, so as to hear the voice of the One who knows us like no one else does, give us a glimpse of his face, and fill us with his Spirit. Affectionately,

Rome, 21 January 2024

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan