



Dearest Sisters,

At 2:45 p.m. today, the Divine Master visited our Carril del Conde community in Madrid, Spain, to take by the hand and accompany to the other shore, our sister:

GUTIERREZ LOBETE ENEDINA – SR. MARIA ROSARIO
born in Ayuela (Palencia), Spain, on 13 May 1936.

Extremely enthusiastic about the Pauline vocation, Sr. M. Rosario was eager to offer her life for the Gospel. From the small rural village in the Spanish region of Castilla y Leon, where she was born, she had absorbed a simple, hard-working style. And it was there that she met the Daughters of St. Paul, who had arrived on Spanish soil just a year earlier. She entered the Congregation at the age of 11 in the house in Barcelona on 7 October 1947, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary—a name she bore with great pride since she had received it from Fr. Alberione himself.

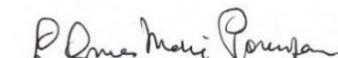
During her years of initial formation, she learned the secrets of the technical apostolate in the community's small typography and took part in the Gospel Days and itinerant missions to families organized by the sisters. In 1954, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1955. In her letters requesting permission to renew her vows, she expressed her joy at the beautiful vocation she had received. This joy would mark her whole life, which she lived in a spirit of constant openness and full participation in the many activities undertaken by her community.

After her perpetual profession, made in Rome on 19 March 1960, Sr. M. Rosario was sent as a missionary to France. In 1970 she returned to Spain to devote herself to the book center apostolate in the communities of Valladolid, Vigo and Barcelona. She always carried the book center in her heart, even when she was entrusted with various governing responsibilities. She was a convinced and convincing member of the center's team—courageous in carrying out her mission and making use of every means so that the Word of God could race ahead and reach everyone. And it was precisely because of her enterprising spirit and her desire to make the book center service faster and more attractive, that she learned to use computers. In fact, in the mid-1980s she helped to initiate, with the collaboration of other FSPs and also experts, the computerization of our book centers in Spain.

Very open to universality, Sr. M. Rosario offered herself for the mission "ad gentes" when the Congregation launched its "Missionary Project" in 1992, writing to the superior general, "If you see fit, I am not only willing but happy to go wherever you believe I would be best suited." Spain would always remain her land of apostolic activity, but the beauty of internationality, which she experienced in numerous congregational meetings and at the Congregation's 8th General Chapter, gave wings to her life. For two non-consecutive terms in the 1990s, she served as delegation counselor for the apostolate, residing in the communities of Madrid-San Bernardo and Valladolid. On several occasions, she served as local superior in Barcelona, Valladolid, and Valencia. In 1999 she was appointed delegation superior. But even in the midst of many responsibilities, she seized the opportunity to participate in the important Book Fair held annually in Madrid, which gave her a valuable opportunity to meet all categories of people.

Sr. M. Rosario deeply loved the Pauline spirituality and in 2012 she participated wholeheartedly in the month-long course of spiritual exercises based on Primo Maestro's book, *Donec Formetur*. In 2015 she was once more appointed local superior of Valladolid and it was here that the first signs of Alzheimer's disease began to affect her. In 2020 she returned to the delegation's central house in Madrid in order to receive the ongoing care she required. She wanted to be a part of the community's daily life, and even at night she expressed her yearning to be close to the sisters with whom she lived.

And today, the Lord Jesus, with his divine touch, called Sr. M. Rosario from her beloved community to share the joy of the saints in the great community of the Pauline Family in heaven. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 10 February 2024