



Dearest Sisters,

Exactly six days before Easter, at 6:00 a.m. (local time), the Lord Jesus visited our Delegation of Portugal to call to himself an ardent apostle of the Word:

**MOREIRA LOPES SR. ADELIA**  
**born in Parada do Bispo (Lamego), Portugal, on 24 June 1933**

Sr. Adelia was an open-hearted person who easily expressed her wonder and joy in life and was always ready to dedicate herself to God and the people around her with generosity, love, hard work and enthusiasm.

She entered the Congregation in the community of Porto, Portugal, on 7 October 1955 and participated enthusiastically in the first Gospel Days organized by the sisters in that nation. Those feasts were described by the young sisters as *“a ray of sunshine, an opportunity to taste the joy of being Daughters of St. Paul, the Sisters of the Gospel.”* In 1958, Sr. Adelia was sent to Rome to make her novitiate and on that occasion she received a new name. She said humorously that no one ever remembered her name so she dubbed herself “Polycarp”—a name that stuck to her for the rest of her life. On 30 June 1959, Sr. Adelia (Polycarp) made her first profession in Rome and soon afterward returned to Portugal, where she disseminated the Word of God in the diocese of Porto.

The time she spent in Rome preparing for her perpetual profession was a very happy one for her, where she learned how to set up book displays to dress the Word in beauty. When she returned to Portugal, she organized Bible missions in Porto, Faro, Lisbon, and Funchal. In 1987 she had the grace to participate in a time of theological updating, after which she resumed her itinerant apostolate, especially on the island of Madeira. For 15 years, she visited and provided animations in almost all the parishes of the diocese of Funchal. She was happy to be able to help people rediscover the prophetic vigor of the Word of God and the dynamic life that radiates from it, as she herself stated in an interview with the diocesan newspaper, emphasizing how joyful the people were when they came to know the God who accompanies their life’s journey so lovingly....

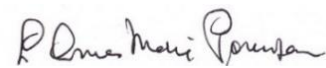
In 2006, Sr. Adelia was transferred to the community of Lisbon, where she worked in particular at the information desk of the Delegation’s publishing center. She called the desk her *pulpit*, and from there she continued to cultivate many bonds of friendships and proclaim the Good News. The information desk was the heart of the community. She considered it her office and kept it very tidy, manifesting her hardworking nature in the various services she performed.

When Sr. Adelia celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession, she said: “I regret that my strength is decreasing, but the Lord has assigned me to a place where I can communicate with many people. This desk is truly a place of evangelization.” She considered it a great gift to be able to celebrate her jubilee of profession precisely in the year in which the Pauline Family was commemorating the centenary of the Founder’s Pact with the Lord.

In calling Sr. Adelia to eternal life, our good Father respected her rhythm of life, which had always been based on essentials. Only a month ago she had undergone an operation for a strangulated hernia (a life-threatening condition that required immediate medical intervention). Her post-operative care was proceeding smoothly but an unexpected respiratory infection complicated the situation. On 21 March, she was transferred to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Lisbon, where she suffered heart failure.

As we prepare for Easter, it is consoling to think that Sr. Adelia was called to share the Master’s “hour” of love today, in which he poured himself out unconditionally for all humanity. Affectionately,

Rome, 25 March 2024

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan