

Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 8:00 p.m. last night (local time), the Divine Master visited our Cidade Regina community in São Paulo, Brazil, to call to himself one of our sisters and fill her with his joy:

MASOTTI SR. IRES

born in Gramado (Porto Alegre), Brazil, on 1 January 1940.

Sr. Ires was very generous, simple and tireless person. She had not completed any specialized studies but was rich in the wisdom that comes from God, and she allowed herself to be led by him every moment of her life. She entered the Congregation in the house in Porto Alegre, Brazil on 4 April 1954, at the age of fourteen. She made her aspirancy and postulancy in that house, learning the secrets of the Pauline mission. In 1959 she was sent to the community of São Paulo DM, where she carried out itinerant diffusion of the Gospel in parishes, schools and communities with great commitment. She made her novitiate in that community, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1962, and then went on to spread the Word of God through her beautiful testimony of life in Brasilia and Fortaleza.

After her perpetual profession in São Paulo DM on 30 June 1967, Sr. Ires carried out itinerant “propaganda” in Maringa before being assigned to the large and very busy kitchens of São Paulo and Porto Alegre, where for the next fifteen years she prepared meals for dozens and dozens of sisters and young women in formation. The sisters who lived with her declare that she dedicated her heart and soul to all the services requested of her, never manifesting any preferences for the duties she was asked to perform. She wrote to the provincial superior: “I am convinced that every service in the Congregation is important, whether it be in the book center, on ‘propaganda,’ in the kitchen or laundry room. I see every work I am asked to do as noble and great, because I do it out of love for God, for souls, and for my sanctification.”

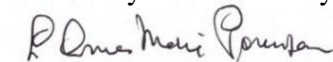
In 1973, Sr. Ires was once again assigned to the book center apostolate—an apostolic mission she carried out almost continuously for the next thirty-five years in the cities of Porto Alegre, Salvador, Fortaleza, São Paulo IA, Belo Horizonte (Turfa), Recife, São Paulo DM and Cidade Regina. She herself was a cheerful, welcoming presence in these centers—a person who clearly manifested through her behavior that she was happy with her choice of life and was always ready to foster a festive atmosphere in the house. Along with assisting book center clients, she also handled the administrative and financial aspects of the center, which were very pressing. In 1990, she was asked to serve as superior of the Niteroi community, after which she worked in the record department and audiovisual sector of São Paulo IA.

In Belem, Sr. Ires took care of the economic aspect of the community for about eight years before being sent, in 2016, to Cidade Regina (São Paulo), where she was able to receive the medical care she needed due to the onset of severe motor difficulties caused by both Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases. Our sister lived this time of illness in progressive surrender to the Lord, allowing him to work in her with ever-growing docility to his actions. Her good and kind heart was joyfully open to prayer, and her special intentions for vocations and effectiveness in the Pauline mission were never lacking. Although her physical movements were increasingly limited, she willingly offered to collaborate with the other elderly and sick sisters by carrying out small jobs compatible with her situation.

Even in the last months of her life, physically crippled and confined to a wheelchair, Sr. Ires continued to be a smiling and lovable presence in her community, paying close attention to what was going on around her. She was truly a happy Pauline, witnessing wherever she went to her courage, coping skills and deep faith.

In this very rich Easter season in which we are getting ready to celebrate the Feast of the Apostle St. Mark, we like to think that the light of the Lamb of God has already welcomed our sister into the new, heavenly Jerusalem. We hope that she, who generously proclaimed the unfathomable riches of Christ throughout her life, is now joyfully proclaiming his great love for all eternity. Affectionately,

Rome, 25 April 2024



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan