



Dearest Sisters,

At 5:20 p.m. yesterday (local time), during First Vespers of the Solemnity of the Ascension and also the World Day of Social Communications, God our good Father visited the emergency room of Rio Pequeno Hospital, São Paulo, Brazil, to call to live in intimacy with himself for all eternity our sister:

ZAIA Sr. AMELIA
born in Cruz do Rio Pardo (SP), Brazil on 5 May 1935.

She entered the Congregation in the Divine Master community of São Paulo, Brazil, on 2 August 1949, at the age of 14. After a brief period of formation, she was asked in 1950 to serve as a cook for the SSP seminarians in their Institute's São José community. She returned to the FSP Divine Master community to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1956.

Sr. Amelia spent her Juniorate in the dioceses of Curitiba, Salvador and Fortaleza, where she dedicated her time and energy to spreading the Gospel to families, institutes and numerous groups and associations. She made her perpetual profession in São Paulo on 19 March 1961 and then worked in the technical apostolate for about 10 years. After this, she was assigned to the information desk in the Cidade Regina community and then carried out the same service in the nearby FSP House of Prayer.

In 1975, in a letter to the Superior General, Sr. Amelia expressed her joy at being a Pauline and also revealed her awareness of her own personality and limitations. She said she was comforted by the profound certainty of the Apostle Paul, quoting his words: "I am persuaded that he who began this good work in me will bring it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (cf. Phil. 1:6). The letter continues: "Just as Christ was faithful to the Father by living his own *yes* to the uttermost, I too want to live my *yes* to him to the utmost in this Congregation... I have enormous hope in Christ: it is he who is at work in me, liberating me and filling me with his grace."

Our sister was given the opportunity to obtain a diploma as a professional nurse and in 1989 she began caring for the sick and elderly members of our Institute, first in the Alberione community in São Paulo, Brazil, and then in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, Italy (1990-1993). When she returned to Brazil, she asked for a year's leave of absence from the Congregation in order to assist her seriously ill mother and sister.

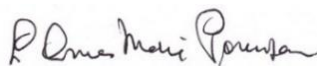
When she re-entered the Institute, she was transferred to the Generalate in Rome (1997), and then was asked to help care for the sick and elderly members of the Congregation, first in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano and then in the Divine Providence community in Rome. She felt a great responsibility for the duties entrusted to her and, keenly aware of her forceful character, worked hard to develop a softer and more cordial approach to others.

Sr. Amelia returned to Brazil in 2003 after participating with great joy in the beatification celebrations for Fr. James Alberione in Rome. In Niteroi, Cidade Regina, Maringa and Curitiba, she carried out many different community services and also made rosaries that were disseminated through the book center. She cultivated a deep prayer life, and in her times of prolonged intimacy with the Lord she continued to beg him for the graces closest to her heart—gentleness, goodness and humility—so as to become ever more similar to him. In 2019, Sr. Amelia was once again assigned to the Cidade Regina community in São Paulo, expressing her gratitude for this time in which to prepare herself more profoundly for the last stage of her life.

In his goodness, our Father called our sister home to heaven on the day on which the Liturgy encourages us to contemplate the descent of Jesus among us, so that we can in turn be lifted up to heaven (Pope Francis)—that heaven which today has thrown wide its doors to welcome our dear sister forever.

Affectionately,

Rome, 12 May 2024


Sr. Anna Maria Parezan

