



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that last night at 6:50 p.m. (local time) in the community of Cidade Regina (São Paulo, Brazil), the Divine Master invited one of our sisters to pass to the other shore, the shore of beauty, of light, of peace:

BIAZUS Sr. OLINDA CATARINA
born in Flores da Cunha (Caxias do Sul, RS, Brazil) on December 8, 1936

Sr. Olinda was a true apostle and communicator of the Word, embracing each stage of life with fortitude, courage, and confidence, in a spirit of constant self-giving and devotion. She entered the congregation in the community of Porto Alegre on August 15, 1950, at the age of fourteen. From her earliest years of Pauline life, she lived the mission with enthusiasm and soon learned the art of printing. She made her first profession on June 30, 1957, in the Divine Master community in São Paulo. While completing philosophical and theological studies, she was asked to teach the young women in formation and was simultaneously entrusted with the administration and editing of the magazine *Família Cristã*. Sr. Olinda was very involved in communicating the Gospel through the press but also through the airwaves. In Salvador, where she was transferred in 1967, and later in Recife, she dedicated herself passionately to managing the book center, but above all, to producing religious programs broadcast on the radio channels of the Society of St. Paul.

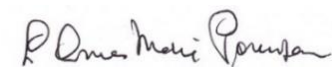
Returning to São Paulo, she was entrusted with the direction of the *Família Cristã* magazine, which she developed significantly, both in quality and readership. Due to her experience and the deep trust her sisters placed in her, Sr. Olinda was appointed for two terms as a counselor for the apostolic sector and as provincial bursar. Later, she served as local superior in Curitiba and Manaus, inspiring everyone with the apostolic zeal that burned in her heart.

In 1998, after undergoing multiple clinical tests, Sr. Olinda was diagnosed with *systemic scleroderma*, a rare auto-immune disease that causes hardening and tightening of the skin and connective tissues and affects the internal organs. She accepted this “surprise” as part of God's plan for her life by committing herself to more intense prayer hoping that this would become an opportunity to allow *Jesus to live more deeply within her*. She wrote: “The Lord is working in me in a very special way; for this, I praise and glorify His goodness, His love, and His mercy.” Despite her illness, she continued to spend herself generously especially in the shipping and printing departments in the community of Cidade Regina. Sr. Olinda used her gift of friendship to accompany our collaborators in the apostolate, taking an interest in their lives and giving them the opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge of the Pauline charism.

In 2003 Sr. Olinda joyfully participated in the month-long spiritual exercises based on “Donec Formetur” and confided that she had found in the Pauline spirituality all that her heart could desire.

With great inner strength Sr. Olinda continued to give of herself in the apostolate and in various community services even when, in 2017, a fall caused her to fracture her femur. In recent months she was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue that completely prevented her from speaking. She lived this time in silence following the example of Mary “whose silence listens and makes the Word flourish” (Benedict XVI). May her life, offered in silence and love, make the Word flourish in the hearts of many young people thirsting for truth, igniting within them the grace of vocation.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, March 2, 2025