



Dearest Sisters,

It is with profound emotion that we inform you that at the Stella Maris clinic in Lima, at 10:16 a.m. (local time) the good and merciful Father called to Himself our sister

**NICHO GONZALES Sr. MARIA LUISA**

**born in Lima, Peru, on May 30, 1953.**

Sr. Maria was a trustworthy, simple person and very responsible. With a strong sense of belonging she gave herself wholeheartedly for the good of the Pauline mission and our communities. The sisters of the Peru-Bolivia delegation always placed great hope in her. Her optimism, kind disposition, and enthusiasm for the mission enabled her to foster communion, recognizing and valuing the many gifts each sister could offer. For these reasons, her Pauline journey was marked by dedicated service in leadership at various levels.

Sr. Maria responded to God's vocational call at a mature age, entering the congregation in Lima on April 19, 1981. She was twenty-eight years old and had completed her studies in her hometown to become an elementary school teacher. She made her novitiate in the community of El Hatillo, Venezuela, where she also made her first profession on June 30, 1985. As a junior professed sister, she shared in the Pauline mission by serving in the book center in Lima while completing her studies in philosophy. Sr. Maria professed perpetual vows on June 30, 1990, in Lima, Peru. On that occasion, she expressed her deep gratitude to the delegation that had welcomed her and provided so many opportunities for her formation. At the same time, she felt a deep responsibility to continue nurturing the congregation's charism, to expand her sense of universal mission, and to live, like the Apostle Paul, as one who felt obligated to preach the Gospel to all.

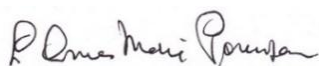
In 1994, while assigned to Cochabamba, Bolivia, Sr. Maria was appointed delegation counselor and secretary. Three years later, she was reappointed while also accepting the role of superior of the La Paz community. From 2003 and until the end of her life, she was given an ever-growing series of assignments as councilor, delegation bursar, and delegate superior (for three non-consecutive terms). Sr. Maria gave of herself completely and knew how to welcome even difficult situations with serenity. She had a very practical sense and as a bursar she was organized, moderate, and prudent. She was truly a good administrator!

In May, while still serving as the delegate superior, Sr. Maria she was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. Neither surgery nor the rounds of radiation therapy that began in July—shortly after she celebrated her 40th anniversary of profession—proved effective. She faced this difficult trial with serenity, courage, and deep trust that all would unfold according to God's plan. She lived these final months with profound gratitude for the goodness around her, for the care and closeness of the sisters, and for every gesture of affection. She had a remarkable gift for meeting challenges with serenity, a gift that, as the sisters testify, was the hallmark of her service as delegate.

About a week ago, her aggravated physical condition required hospitalization. By now the offering of her life was rising like incense before God.

Sr. Maria had been elected as a delegate to the 12th General Chapter. Surely from heaven she will continue her mission, and like a good steward, she will intercede with the Father to renew His covenant and grant our beautiful and beloved Family a future filled with hope.

Affectionately,



*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, September 5, 2025