



Dearest Sisters,

The Lord has visited us again: at 3:58 p.m. (local time) in the Mother Thecla Merlo House in Pasay City, Philippines, our sister was called to live forever in the radiant light of the Risen One

**SEBUMPAN CONSUELO Sr. MARIA GESUALDA
born in Moalboal (Cebu), Philippines on February 22, 1931.**

Sr. M. Gesualda entered the congregation in the Regina Apostolorum community in Pasay City on December 31, 1954. After a time of formation, she made her novitiate year in Lipa, and then her first profession on June 30, 1959. Immediately afterward, she dedicated herself to the proclamation of the Word, carrying heavy bags of books to families, parishes, and remote villages on the different islands. She traveled widely, especially among the dioceses of Manila, Cagayan de Oro and, later, Vigan. Even in her later years, she fondly remembered that period—an arduous yet joyful mission to bring truth in charity and to share the Word of Jesus with the poor and needy. For nearly 20 years, at different times and well into old age, she served in the bindery of the Regina Apostolorum house in Pasay. She had learned directly from the Founder to love the technical apostolate, uniting the hidden physical labor of often-anonymous work with the intentions of Jesus, who gave himself on the cross for our salvation. She was industrious, extremely responsible, and capable of undertaking every kind of work with dedication, fully committed to both community life and the mission.

In Iloilo, Tacloban, Pasay, Olongapo, and Cebu, Sr. M. Gesualda dedicated herself to the book center apostolate, weaving strong relationships with collaborators and benefactors. She showed them special care, making them feel truly part of the Pauline mission. Within the community, she was gentle and kind, attentive and sensitive to the needs of each sister, always ready to take part in various activities to foster communion, growth, and a family spirit. She was also skilled in accounting, providing valuable support in the province's administrative offices.

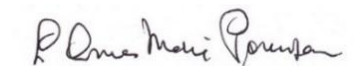
Sr. M. Gesualda is especially remembered for her love of music and for leading liturgical singing with her beautiful voice. She devoted particular care to the Holy Week celebrations, which she solemnized through song. Especially in her later years, she would seize every opportunity to sit at the piano and play familiar melodies. She also loved to brighten community recreation with the sound of her guitar.

Since 1985, this dear sister had been afflicted by illness: first a tumor in her left breast and, after a few years, in her right breast. In 2022 Sr. M. Gesualda was hospitalized for various hemorrhages, and the following year a malignant melanoma developed on one of her fingers. This past August she was admitted to St. John of God Hospital in Pasay City due to convulsions and high blood pressure. By then, the cancer had already spread to her brain, and her organs were failing. Brought back to the community, she spent her final weeks awaiting the embrace of her beloved Spouse, surrounded by the care and devotion of the nursing staff. She was surely ready for the encounter she had prepared for so carefully, especially in recent years, by nurturing an intense relationship with the Lord in long hours of personal prayer.

On this first Saturday of the month, we entrust Sr. M. Gesualda to the loving arms of the Queen of Apostles whom she loved so much and always considered the true Mother and inspirer of the Pauline mission.

Affectionately,

Rome, September 6, 2025



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan