



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that today at 1:48 a.m. (local time), at St. John of God Hospital in Pasay City (Manila, Philippines), the merciful Father called to Himself our sister

CARRIDO SANTIAGA VALENTINA Sr. SANTIAGA
born in Caibiran Leyte (Palo Leyte, Philippines) on July 25, 1945.

Sr. Santiago was the eighth child in a large, deeply religious family, where she learned responsibility, a strong work ethic, and a joyful spirit. Her sisters remember her as a warm and approachable person—simple, friendly, open to everyone, and naturally gifted at forming bonds of friendship and apostolate.

She entered the congregation in the Queen of Apostles community in Pasay City on October 2, 1967, after graduating from high school. During her postulancy, Sr. Santiago learned the craft of book production and participated in the itinerant apostolate in the Cebu community. On January 25, 1974, after completing her two-year novitiate, she made her first profession in Lipa together with six companions. Her heart was filled with joy and gratitude to the Lord, and she expressed in her requests for renewal of vows her deep desire to be fully available to do God's will.

During the time of her juniorate, Sr. Santiago devoted herself enthusiastically to itinerant evangelization in the great Archdiocese of Manila and to personal and apostolic preparation through the study of religious sciences. Regarding her perpetual profession, which she made in Pasay City on January 21, 1979, she wrote: "I am fully convinced that the Pauline religious life is made just for me, that is, it guides me toward the realization of my life's ideal. I make this choice in freedom and with much joy. My choice is Christ, and I wish to say my 'yes' forever, with love..."

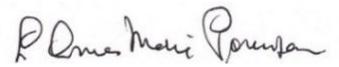
Sr. Santiago continued her long commitment as a "propagator of the Gospel" in the dioceses of Manila, Lipa, and Selangor (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). In Zamboanga, she served as superior and later devoted several years to the technical apostolate in the large bindery in Pasay City, where she shared her apostolic zeal with young women in formation. She lived with a deep sense of belonging, shown in her readiness to assist with any initiative that needed her help. Undeterred by fatigue or sacrifice, she was always available and radiated a contagious joy.

She served as local superior in Bacolod, coordinated outreach in Legaspi, and later worked in the book centers of Marikina and Tuguegarao. Above all, Sr. Santiago is remembered as a tireless evangelizer, serving in the communities of Pasay, Lipa, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Baguio, and Marikina. She was willing to make any sacrifice to ensure that the Word of God could reach every heart. Her spontaneity and warmth enabled her to build relationships with benefactors and secure resources for the community. She possessed a delightful sense of humor that could make everyone laugh and bring comfort in any situation. She also knew how to be playfully "comical," lifting the sisters' spirits and fostering a joyful, peaceful atmosphere in the life of the community. Despite facing serious health challenges, Sr. Santiago bore them with serenity: acute kidney disease, hypertensive heart disease and diabetes. A few days ago, she was hospitalized after a serious fall that caused an intracranial hemorrhage, which proved to be the immediate cause of her death.

With Sr. Santiago, we contemplate the marvelous plan of salvation into which today's liturgy invites us—a plan revealing the boundless love of God that she now enjoys forever in the kingdom of heaven (cf. Rom 8:27–30).

Affectionately,

Rome, October 29, 2025


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan