



Dearest Sisters,

On January 31, at 5:15 a.m. (local time), at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston (United States), our merciful Father welcomed our sister into his House of Light;

**OBROVAC MARGARET MARY Sr. MARGARET JOSEPH  
born in San Francisco, CA (United States), on September 3, 1956**

Everything unfolded within just a few weeks. During the Christmas season, Sr. Margaret enlivened the festivities with her beautiful voice, and on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, she led the Hour of Adoration in the Boston community. Shortly after, diagnostic tests revealed a large pancreatic mass and lesions on her liver. The situation immediately appeared very serious. With truly extraordinary faith and courage, Sr. Margaret faced this final stage of her life by undergoing various treatments, placing her full trust in the intercession of Prima Maestra Thecla and often repeating, deep in her heart, the words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to little Juan Diego: *“Am I not here, who am your Mother? Let nothing frighten or sadden you. Let nothing worry or disturb you.”*

Sr. Margaret spent her final hours in serenity and peace, surrounded by the care and affection of her sister, Frances, and the sisters of the community. During a video call with the Superior General, she reaffirmed her commitment to pray for the General Government and for all—absolutely all—the sisters.

Sr. Margaret entered the Congregation in Boston (United States) on September 23, 1973. During her formation, she earned her high school diploma and, after completing the required two years of novitiate, made her first profession in Boston on July 3, 1977. As a junior professed sister, she dedicated herself to itinerant evangelization in the archdioceses of New York (Staten Island), Chicago, and the Diocese of Cleveland. After her perpetual profession in Boston on June 27, 1982, she continued to proclaim the Gospel in Chicago, Seattle, San Antonio, and Honolulu. In 1988, she was appointed superior of the Los Angeles community. At the conclusion of her term, she resumed the Pauline mission in Alexandria, VA, New Orleans, Boston, and Toronto (Canada). She loved meeting people, proclaiming the Word, animating catechists, and seeking resources for the mission by involving the laity and sharing with them the urgent needs of the apostolate. She was a born communicator—passionate and focused in everything she did—even if, at times, she lacked a certain practical sense, a trait that often made her sisters smile.

In 2000, Sr. Margaret had the opportunity to live in Rome with the community at Via dei Lucchesi while studying Italian. In Perugia, at the University for Foreigners (dedicated to language and cultural studies for international students), she earned her diploma. Her passion for the Italian language was so strong that, upon returning to the United States—despite her commitments in the communities of San Francisco, Redwood City, and San Antonio—she continued studying it diligently and soon began serving as an official translator at various meetings.

Sr. Margaret later participated in a year of formation in the Pauline charism, a powerful immersion in its spiritual and apostolic richness. This prepared her to serve as coordinator of the Pauline Cooperators of the province. During those years, she accepted, with some trepidation but a strong sense of responsibility, the task of writing the history of the first twenty-five years of the United States Province. She devoted herself wholeheartedly to this research and continued it even after, in 2015, she was asked to offer her services in the offices of the Anglophone (English-speaking) section of the Vatican’s Secretariat of State. Among her responsibilities was facilitating the search for

scholarships for religious and priests, especially from Africa, sponsored by the Papal Foundation. She found great joy whenever she could encourage students to deepen their formation in communication.

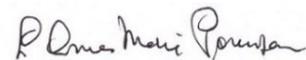
Sr. Margaret's dynamic personality also played a key role in organizing a communication seminar, with support from the Papal Foundation, at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome, the first such seminar in its nearly 400-year history.

Sr. Margaret loved Italy. She had studied its art and history in depth and gladly accompanied sisters who wished to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the Apostolic Palace, and the excavations beneath the Church of Santa Maria in Via Lata, where St. Paul is believed to have been imprisoned for three years.

In 2024, she received the honor "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" from Pope Francis and had the joy of being a member of the Papal entourage during Pope Francis's final apostolic journey to Luxembourg and Belgium. Before returning to the United States in March 2025, Sr. Margaret conducted extensive research, including work in the Vatican Library, to complete the province's history. One of her greatest sorrows was that she would not be able to finish this labor of love and would have to entrust it to others.

A few days before her death, Sr. Margaret confided to a sister in a gentle, peaceful voice: "I am so grateful for all the love and care I have received from everyone; I want to repay it with the same love and care."

We, too, are deeply grateful for this dear sister and imagine her now singing, with her melodious soprano voice, the new song—the song of the elect in the heavenly Jerusalem.



*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, January 31, 2026