



Dearest Sisters,

On February 24 at 9:45 a.m. in the community of Albano, the merciful Father welcomed our sister into his loving arms:

CAFFERATA JACINTA Sr. MARIA ISABEL
born on July 1, 1933, in Esquina (Corrientes, Argentina)

Argentine, Chilean, Italian! Sr. Isabel was proud to be all three. Born in Argentina, she later obtained Chilean citizenship for reasons connected to her apostolate and came to consider herself fully Chilean. She then spent thirty-seven years in Italy where she practically invented her own language — a lively “Itagnolo” — which she spoke effortlessly and with great charm. Naturally warm and outgoing, she was a born actress and a delightful joker. Her expressive way of speaking especially captivated children, for whom she wrote many educational books published by Pauline Editions in Chile. Coming from a family of teachers, she deeply valued education and embraced, within her Pauline vocation, the beauty of a true *teaching* apostolate — proclaiming the Gospel with creativity, joy, and conviction.

Sr. Isabel entered the congregation in the house in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on April 19, 1956, after receiving her teaching credentials. She made her novitiate and first religious profession in Buenos Aires on June 29, 1958. She had the opportunity to deepen her cultural formation through philosophical and theological studies and, while still a junior professed, she was called to serve as superior of the house in Rosario. In 1962, Sr. Isabel left Argentina to join the communities in Chile. In La Florida, Santiago, she was responsible for the formation of young candidates for about ten years. For two non-consecutive terms, she was appointed delegation councilor and then managed the editorial apostolate while also serving as superior of the community.

She carried in her heart a longing *to live a life of total dedication to prayer, silence, and seclusion for the glory of God and the good of her brothers and sisters*. In 1987, Sr. Isabel expressed to Sr. Maria Cevolani, then Superior General, her desire to live a contemplative life to respond to her great thirst for God and intimacy with Him. She was granted a short stay with the Discalced Carmelites. It was during that time that she clearly understood that the answer to what she was seeking was in our Pauline vocation.

In 1989, at the end of her Carmelite experience, Sr. Isabel joined the generalate community in Rome to undertake the translation of congregational texts into Spanish. She carried out this task with fidelity and love for about thirty years, her heart reaching the whole world. When the Missionary Project was launched, she expressed her desire to be a living stone in the construction of the great community that is the congregation and confided to the Superior General: “I must give my life, no matter where and how, but... give it. Count on me, and when you have no horses, you know that here there is a poor little donkey...”

At the generalate, Sr. Isabel was a loving, serene presence, available for every need, that included serving the sick sisters, which she considered her privilege. In 2008, on the Jubilee of Consecrated Life, she wrote to the superior general: “Some time ago, I looked at my profession handkerchief and saw that it was a little yellow. I said: I would not want my availability to fail or rust. For this reason, I want to renew my total availability for any office, time, or nation. I know my possibilities (are few) but I have always found myself happy in giving my best and with all my heart. The Lord has always

been so good to me, and this makes me happy and allows me to sleep peacefully like a child in her mother's arms.”

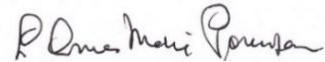
In 2016, Sr. Isabel was hospitalized at the Gemelli Polyclinic for a serious neuromuscular condition. Even then she expressed her firm trust in God’s care, and on her 60th anniversary of consecrated life, she confided, “I am happy despite my sins and failures in fidelity. I can say that at times I feel like a child being held by the Lord. I experience everything as a gift, an opportunity to do something more for Him and for the mission.”

Sr. Isabel lived her last years in the community of Albano, accepting with peace even a broken leg (femur), from which she recovered without surgery. Due to the seriousness of her overall physical condition, which required the continuous use of oxygen, she was bedridden for about a year. In 2020, she wrote: “For fifteen days now, I have been in this house that was so desired by Primo Maestro and Prima Maestra. It is a place of suffering with eyes open. I feel at ease, serene, in a state of abandonment, and I would say happy, to experience this moment of grace. Here one realizes what it means to give one's life to a mission that is a bit unusual for a Daughter of St. Paul. I see that the sisters are true daughters of M. Tecla in the spirit of prayer and in the service of charity and concern for people in need, with love, self-denial, and solicitude. They live to serve tirelessly.... May God bless the sisters and the staff of this house.”

We thank Sr. M. Isabel for her Pauline witness and for the love she shared among us through her constant faithfulness. Let us entrust her to the arms of our loving Father, that he may welcome her into his dwelling and grant her the fullness of life.

Affectionately,

Rome, February 24, 2026



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan