



Dearest Sisters,

On the morning of April 23, at 4 a.m., in the community of Albano, the Risen Lord drew to Himself our sister, to nourish her eternally with the bread of life,

EHLERT ELISABETH SR. MARIA AUXILIADORA
born in Castro - Parana (Brazil) on January 5, 1941

Sr. M. Auxiliadora was a sister who was called to offer deep physical suffering, sometimes with tears in her eyes but more often with a sweet smile on her lips. She was *Brazilian* by birth, *North American* for the apostolate, and *Italian* by love for the land that welcomed her in the darkest time of illness and gave her a degree of recovery after long periods of treatment.

She entered the congregation in the house in Curitiba, Brazil, on February 27, 1955, at the age of fourteen. After some years in formation and novitiate, she made her first profession on June 30, 1961, in São Paulo DM and five years later she made her perpetual profession in Boston.

As a young professed sister, Sr. M. Auxiliadora was assigned to the community of Salvador Bahia (Brazil), where she spread the Word among families, offices, and various institutions. Beginning in 1966, she continued this apostolic ministry as a missionary in the United States. She traversed the dioceses of Boston, Oakland, California, Bridgeport, and San Francisco carrying heavy bags of books, while her heart rejoiced in the opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus with open hands and dedication. She was called to serve as superior in San Diego in 1972, and later she continued this service in Philadelphia and Miami. In New Orleans, she resumed the ministry of outreach, covering mile after mile across the great metropolitan areas of the United States.

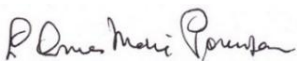
When Sr. M. Auxiliadora arrived in Albano in 1989, her physical condition was precarious, and for several years she had to undergo various therapies to regain some measure of mobility and independence. She took every opportunity to assist in various secretarial services at the Regina Apostolorum hospital, from booking appointments for diagnostic tests, to transcribing reports, and maintaining the archives. In 2013 she expressed the desire to return to Brazil, her homeland. But after a few months there she returned to Albano where she really felt “at home” and where she helped at the switchboard and reception services. Sr. M. Auxiliadora was especially happy when making her distinctive knotted rosaries which she would distribute generously to the junior-professed, friends, and people she met in Italy and abroad. She was a generous and energetic presence. With good taste and an artistic sense, she helped prepare Christmas decorations and made charming greeting cards and birthday signs on the computer.

But before long, her quick fingers, affected by severe arthritis and Parkinson’s disease, were no longer able to carry out the handwork that had filled her days. In Sr. M. Auxiliadora’s final years, heart disease and other serious pulmonary and mobility-related illnesses made daily life difficult. Yet she continued to radiate serenity, a spirit of prayer, and the desire to remain a living part of the community. She rejoiced in liturgical celebrations and in sharing festive occasions. The smile that shone on her face was her most affectionate “thank you” to the sisters and healthcare assistants who cared for her.

In the Easter season, the crucified and risen Master called her to *be born again, to be reborn from above*, and lift up to Him, like a sweet fragrance, the perfume of a humble, good, and faithful life, a life that in its simplicity, becomes hope of salvation for the world.

Affectionately,

Rome, April 23, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan