

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

This is to let you know that the Divine Master visited our community of Santiago, Chile at 11:38 a.m. today to call to “the other shore” of peace and joy our sister:

**BEHRENS CORTES ENCARNACION MARIA – SR. JOSEFINA**  
**born in Lota (Concepcion), Chile on 22 November 1932.**

Sr. Josefina suffered from a grave form of diabetes and in the last stage of her life was lovingly assisted by the sisters of her community, who surrounded her with an abundance of prayer and affection on her passage to eternal life, entrusting her to the Blessed Mother, whom the Chilean people honor in a special way during the month of November.

Sr. Josefina entered the Congregation in Santiago La Florida on 10 March 1956, after serving as an active catechist in her parish. She underwent her initial formation in Santiago, followed by her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1961. Hers was the first novitiate of the Chilean Delegation, which prior to this had been united to the Province of Argentina.

When she made her perpetual profession on 19 March 1966, Sr. Josefina wrote to Superior General Maestra Ignazia: “We realize that because you are so far away you cannot accompany us on this happy day on which we make our definitive commitment to the Lord, but we ask you to remain close to us in prayer because this is the bond that unites us perpetually. We will always praise the Lord for having called us to be members of the great Pauline Family.”

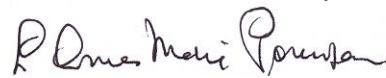
Sr. Josefina carried out various forms of the Pauline apostolate. She worked with great competence and enthusiasm in the Valparaiso, Santiago, Concepcion and Antofagasta book centers and in all these communities, she also carried out the service of cook with great attention to the sisters’ health and general well-being. Later, she lived for some time in the house of Coyhaique, in the extreme south of Chile—a very cold and inhospitable region—where she generously collaborated with Radio Santa Maria.

In 1986 Sr. Josefina was placed in charge of the Santiago stock room, and from 1989-2004 she worked once again in the Santiago and Concepcion book centers and also carried out various community services. She wrote from Concepcion in 1991: “I am working in the book center and also holding book displays. The Chilean people like to read and so we visit the schools of all levels in many dioceses. A lot of reflection, divine wisdom and openness are needed to carry out our apostolate well...”

In 2001, it was discovered that Sr. Josefina was suffering from a grave form of diabetes, which, along with other debilitating infirmities, gradually consumed her body. In February 2014, she was admitted as a patient to Sotero del Rio di Santiago Hospital. When she returned home four months later, her doctors were sure that she would not last more than a few additional months. But in reality Sr. Josefina lived for two more years, due in particular to the loving assistance of the members of her community and her nurses, all of whom helped her successfully surmount continual health crises. Yesterday, Sr. Josefina’s birthday, her community joined her in praying the Act of Surrender to the will of God through the hands of Mary, Queen of Apostles. They also thanked the Lord for Sr. Josefina’s life and for all that she had accomplished in her many years as a Pauline.

In the spirit of these last days of the liturgical year, our merciful Father called this dear sister, who was “faithful to her vocation up until death,” to receive the crown of eternal life today and to praise his marvelous works together with Fr. Alberione and all the members of the Pauline Family in heaven.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 23 November 2016