

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

Today, the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, a great mystic and apostle, we received the news that at about 4:00 a.m., our merciful Father visited A.C. Camargo Hospital, Sao Paulo, Brazil, to call to fullness of life our sister:

MASSARETTI AURELIA – SR. MARIA DOLORES
born in Ribeirao Pires (SP), Brazil, on 1 July 1932.

Sr. M. Dolores was hospitalized about a month ago to undergo a series of tests, which revealed that she was suffering from multiple myeloma (cancer of the plasma cells). She immediately began chemotherapy but her fragile health, already compromised by her advanced age, did not produce the hoped-for results. Yesterday evening she began her agony but her moment of encounter with the Lord was marked by the peace and serenity that had characterized her whole life.

Sr. M. Dolores was a dearly-loved sister, who dedicated all her energies to the Brazilian Province. She truly spent and overspent herself with simplicity, intelligence and love, to help ensure that the Gospel reached everyone and that every sister remained faithful to the gift she had received and thus corresponded to God's plan for her life.

Sr. M. Dolores entered the Congregation in the Sao Paulo DM community on 17 January 1944. She made her novitiate this community, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1951. Afterward, she had the chance to study philosophy in Rome, where she learned Italian almost perfectly. Because of her expertise in the Congregation's "mother tongue," she was the sister to whom everyone turned for important translations over the years. When she returned to Brazil, she was immediately assigned to the editorial staff of *Familia Crista* magazine and was also asked to teach the province's young women in formation, which she joyfully did.

In 1970, Sr. M. Dolores was appointed superior of the Curitiba community. Following this, she was made a provincial councilor and supervisor of the book publishing apostolate. From 1978-81, she managed the communications office of the Brazilian Bishops' Conference, with headquarters in Brasilia. That service expanded her heart and gave her the chance to get to know the shepherds of the Local Church and its apostolic needs, which she promptly made the most of for the Pauline mission, helping the sisters heighten their sensitivity to ecclesial situations.

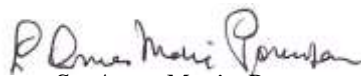
With wisdom and open-mindedness, Sr. M. Dolores then carried out the service of superior in the local communities of Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo and Salvador for repeated terms of office. She also served as provincial councilor for the apostolate a number of times. From 1999-2005, she was secretary for the provincial government, rejoicing at the chance to continue to serve the sisters and Congregation "full time" by making the most of her experience, knowledge and gifts of precision, discretion and wisdom.

Despite her advancing age, Sr. M. Dolores remained ever-young at heart, an attitude that enabled her to learn to use today's the new technologies for the Pauline mission. In fact, while a member of the Humberto I community, she was for a time in charge of editing the online edition of *Familia Crista*. In 2010, at the end of her term as superior of Maringa, she was assigned to what would be her last community—that of Manaus, where her assistance to book center clients and help in forming our Pauline Cooperators was deeply appreciated.

Sr. M. Dolores was an apostle completely dedicated to the Lord up to the end of her life—a person who lived her vocation in the Marian attitude of total self-donation, spreading around her profound love and vibrant hope. On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee of religious profession, she wrote: "This is a very special moment in my life. I am savoring afresh the gift of my vocation and my self-offering to God and his people, and I have renewed my resolution to remain faithful up to the very end."

As we begin our International Seminar on Apostolic Mysticism, the example of this Pauline apostle is a profound inspiration to all of us. May Sr. M. Dolores help us perceive the beauty of being unified persons who "speak of God" by means of our lives and show everyone what it means to be "living Gospels."

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 29 April 2016