

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

At 11:30 a.m. today, local time, the Divine Master paid an unexpected visit to Santa Maria Clinic in Santiago, Chile, to call to himself our sister:

PINTO PASTEN SR. MARIA VERONICA
born in Of. Salitrera Pedro Valdivia (Antofagasta), Chile, on 22 August 1954.

For the past three years, Sr. M. Veronica had been at home with her family, taking care of her sick and elderly mother. A few days ago, she went to Santiago to undergo a minor stomach operation but a serious infection set in afterward—a sepsis (inflammation) that made a second operation urgent. The situation was so serious that the doctors had little hope that she would survive. In her last hours of life, her dear mother arrived in Santiago to see her daughter.

Sr. Veronica entered the Congregation in the community of Santiago, Chile on 28 August 1977 after a 6-month aspirancy made at home while she finished her higher studies and obtained a diploma in nursing. A young woman with high ideals, Sr. Veronica yearned to spend her life disseminating the Gospel and living the wealth of the Pauline charism to the full.

After a period of initial formation that included diverse apostolic experiences, she made her novitiate in Santiago, concluding it with her first profession on 29 June 1981. From her earliest years as a young professed, she exhibited great enthusiasm for the mission the Lord had entrusted to her, courageously facing every challenge she met so as to joyously proclaim the Gospel, whether from the book center or through vocation activities in the communities of Antofagasta and Santiago. She perfected her artistic skills by taking a course in graphics and refined her apostolic preparation through courses in theology and catechetics. She also developed her ability at self-expression by participating in various communications courses. In the community, Sr. Veronica was spontaneous, generous and cheerful, always ready to see to the needs of others, especially our sick sisters. For several years, she was the coordinator of the circumscription's audiovisual productions and also a Delegation councilor.

Sr. Veronica spent the 1997-1998 school year in Italy, where she resided in the Via dei Lucchesi community, Rome, and participated in the annual charism course for the Pauline Family. She lived this time of complete immersion in the grace of the charism as an occasion to experience afresh and with greater depth the Lord's love for her, which touched every aspect of her life. In fact, the dissertation she wrote at the conclusion of the course bore the title, *Trust and Humility: Two Wings for Carrying Out the Pauline Apostolate Well in the Thought of Fr. Alberione*.


Sr. Veronica's buoyant and sociable personality enabled her to overcome every obstacle so as to enable the Word of God to race ahead along the paths of the world. When she returned to Chile, she was placed in charge of diffusion activities and the coordination of the apostolate. Following this, she was appointed superior of the Santiago community, while at the same time continuing to coordinate the marketing and promotion of our Pauline products.

In 2004, she was transferred to Antofagasta to accompany diffusion work from the book center, after which she returned to Santiago to carry out the service of Delegation councilor for the apostolate.

At the end of her mandate, she returned to Antofagasta to be closer to her elderly and ailing mother and in 2011 she felt obliged to ask the Congregation for a leave of absence so as to carry out this service better.

We are especially close to Sr. Veronica's mother, the rest of her family and our sisters of the Chilean Delegation who are all still in shock in the wake of this unexpected visit of the Lord. Jesus Master passed by, fixed his gaze on this Pauline apostle, and invited her to return home to heaven with him. And Sr. Veronica, like little Samuel in today's liturgy, accepted his call and said in the silence of the Clinic's intensive care unit: "Here I am, Lord!"—the same words that had characterized her entire life.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 17 January 2015