

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

On this XVI Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jesus the Good Shepherd visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community at about 6:30 a.m. today to call to his eternal pastures our sister:

SANCHEZ CORAZON – SR. M. CONCORDIA
born in San Miguel (Iloilo), Philippines on 25 June 1938.

It is very easy to sketch out a profile of this dear sister because she spent almost her entire religious life at Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, dedicating all her energies to various medical sectors day after day and sharing the joys and hardships of community life. Sr. Concordia was a true Pauline missionary, leaving her own country while still very young to serve our Institute through the health-care apostolate.

She entered the Congregation in Pasay City, Philippines, on 6 Dec. 1959, made her novitiate in Lipa and concluded this stage of her formation with her first profession on 8 Dec. 1963. A year later, she was sent to Italy to learn the language and then join the FSP community of Albano, which at that time was still a simple clinic. In view of her future mission, she obtained a nursing degree at Frascati, and then a diploma qualifying her to hold the office of department head, and after this a specialized degree in dialysis care.

From 1974-1978—very troubled years for Queen of Apostles Hospital—Sr. Concordia was sent first to Alba and then to Naples, where she carried out the service of infirmarian. Afterward, she spent 2 years in Pasay City, Philippines, once again involved health-care services.

In 1978, she generously said *yes* to the request of Superior General, Sr. Maria Cevolani, and left her homeland to return to Albano.


Sr. Concordia continued to perfect her skills in the nursing field by taking various updating courses, including one that qualified her as an “instruments specialist” in the operating room. She was placed in charge of the Medicine and Surgical Wards of Queen of Apostles Hospital and carried out this service for many years. Afterward, she was assigned to the hospital’s out-patient sector, where she worked in the cardiology department and was known and esteemed for the precision, patience, kindness and goodness with which she carried out her service.

Sr. Concordia firmly believed in the importance of community life: she willingly took part in community events and made a concrete contribution to them whenever possible. She also loved the Pauline spirituality and steadfastly worked to deepen this dimension of her life. In 2010 she joyfully participated in the month-long course of spiritual exercises guided according to the itinerary found in *Donec Formetur*—an experience that “recharged” her and helped her deepen her relationship with Jesus Master.

From the time she was young, Sr. Concordia’s life was marked by illness. In the early 1970’s, she was diagnosed as suffering from a tumor and courageously submitted to radiotherapy treatments. In this last period, an unfortunate “reawakening” of this malady provoked a chain of intestinal problems that required repeated surgery—the last one taking place during the 2015 Easter season. She lived this time of illness with the dignity that had always characterized her, hoping to regain her health but also progressively surrendering herself into the hands of the Father, thus consuming her missionary offering to him. Sr. M. Concordia deeply loved her home province and the people of the Philippines and always kept them in her prayers. We are sure that she serenely offered God the sacrifice of not being able to return to her homeland, remaining a Pauline missionary up to the very end!

Let us entrust that circumscription to her continued prayers and let us also ask her to pray for our Albano community, which welcomed her in her youth and which now places her in the hands of the Father, purified and adorned as a bride.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 19 July 2015