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Dear Sisters,

Last night, at 1:30 a.m. (local time), in the community of Buenos Aires Nazca (Argentina), one of our sisters was called to encounter God and "the extraordinary richness of his grace" and mercy:

BERRA sr ESTELA DEL CARMEN
born in Los Portezuelos (Chile) on 3rd May 1937


Sr Estela del Carmen entered the Congregation in the community of Buenos Aires on 16 April 1956, together with her elder sister, Sr Cecilia. Both had discovered the Daughters of St Paul through a vocation brochure on the table in the sacristy of the parish where they were cleaning. Almost immediately, they were struck by the urgency of the mission of evangelization that the Congregation carried out.

Sr. Estela del Carmen spent her time of formation and novitiate in Buenos Aires, which concluded with her first profession on 8 December 1959. During her juniorate, she devoted herself to the technical apostolate and propaganda in the community of Santa Fe (Argentina). After her perpetual profession, on 8 December 1964 in Buenos Aires, she continued her mission in the families and communities in the dioceses of Santa Fe, Corrientes and in the densely populated metropolitan area of Buenos Aires. In 1975, she was entrusted with the administration of the Argentinian edition of the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*. Subsequently she was sent to calle Larrea (Buenos Aires), to work in the San Paolo Film Agency where she experienced for over six years the beauty and power of the film apostolate.

In 1986, she had the opportunity to devote herself to the Diocesan radio station *Santa Maria*, in the community of Coyhaique-Aysen in the Patagonia region, in the southern end of Chile where the climate is very cold. It was a challenging commitment but rich in prospects. The radio reached the extensive Patagonia region and was widely used to broadcast all kinds of news in that vast area where there were no roads or other means of communication. The Daughters of St. Paul were especially involved in the Christian formation of journalists and social communication workers, in view of preparing them to take on this pastoral service.

When the house closed, Sr Estela del Carmen returned to Argentina where was entrusted with the book centers in Buenos Aires, Tucuman and Santa Fe. She then coordinated the audio-visual sector of the province for about ten years. However, the call to throw herself into the deep waters of the mission, those not yet experienced, burned in her heart. So she asked to join another sister for a special experience, working for the bishop, in the diocese of Bahia Blanca (Argentina). It was a short time, but one that marked her life. In 2004, she was called to coordinate the video sector of the large and well-stocked book centre in Montevideo (Uruguay). However, her health became increasingly fragile and she was transferred to Buenos Aires to continue working in the book center and in particular in the multimedia sector in Nazca and in the community of "Oro". She was especially involved in the duplication of CDs and DVDs, collaborating to enrich the catalogue with new titles purchased from other Spanish-speaking Pauline publishers. She loved music: her beautiful voice accompanied by the sound of the guitar enriched the life of the communities. She also had the joy of working for about a year in the small community of Anatuya (Santiago del Estero) running the diocesan radio station together with her sisters.

After the death of her sister last April, she too suffered a physical decline due to her severe form of diabetes, phlebitis and other illnesses. She also lost the capacity to speak. A few months ago, she was hospitalized for further complications and the application of a pacemaker. Last February, she returned to the community where, assisted by a medical team, she prepared for the last stage of her life. And on this fourth Sunday of Lent, in which we contemplate the infinite love of the Father, Sr Estela del Carmen was called to "look up" and to believe in the glorified Son who was lifted up for us; to live forever in that light that does not fade, in the heavenly Jerusalem. Affectionately.


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 14 March 2021.