



Dearest sisters,

We received the news that at 12:15 p.m. (local time), in the community of Cidade Regina (São Paulo, Brazil), one of our sisters was called to contemplate the face of God

**CANDIAN CAROLINA Sr. M. SILVANA  
born in Pedreia (SP, Brazil) on August 11, 1924**

Having reached almost a century of life and seventy-five years of Pauline consecration, Sr. M. Silvana was ready to fly into the arms of Jesus, the Jesus she loved so much and to whom she had dedicated her entire existence. She was universally known as “My dear” because this was how she always greeted others (in English!) with her broad and welcoming smile. She said, “My dear,” to welcome customers to the bookstore because to her, “My dear” expressed closeness, a joyful and caring welcome, her way of embracing people. Her joyful and caring nature was a testament to her love for Jesus, “the great love of her life.” Indeed, as she explained to sisters eager to know the secret of such happiness, “It was for Him that I left everything, and I have always been very happy. I am happy because God loves me, and I love Him.” These were not idle words: she spoke of God with the naturalness and spontaneity of one who has met Him *face to face*. Her simple and poor person, with no special needs, was rich because of the presence of God, because of the fire of the Word that she assimilated and made flesh of her own flesh.

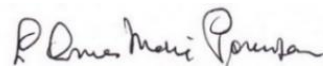
Sr. M. Silvana's journey in the congregation began in the house of São Paulo DM on March 29, 1945. After her novitiate year, she made her first profession on December 8, 1949, and then devoted herself passionately to proclaiming the Gospel in the dioceses of Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte. On December 8, 1954, she made her perpetual vows and, the following year, she arrived in Rome to prepare for life as a missionary: *ad gentes*. In February 1957, she and two other sisters arrived in Sydney, Australia, where they experienced the sacrifices of the first years. She soon devoted herself to organizing book exhibits and itinerant missions in families and communities. The Apostolic Nuncio praised “the humble, continuous, hidden but very valuable and necessary work done in so many parishes. The visits from house to house to disseminate *the good press* accompanied by kind and courteous manners and those simple and convincing words that charity knows how to suggest and put on the lips.”

After ten years of Australian life, Sr. Silvana was asked to take another leap of faith: a mission to Venezuela. Always characterized by her joyful availability, she spent thirty-seven years in the communities of Caracas C, Barquisimeto, El Hatillo, and Puerto Ordaz. Sr. Silvana was ever ready to serve and help the sisters where needed, from the book center to the kitchen to other community services.

In 2004, after nearly fifty years of missionary life, Sr. Silvana returned to Brazil, carrying in her heart the faces of the people she had encountered. She even struggled to pronounce her native Portuguese, which she mixed with English, Spanish, and Italian. However, this did not prevent her from fully communicating with and paying attention to each person who would feel welcomed and loved by her. Her vitality gave the Cidade Regina House of Prayer, where she answered the phone, her unique imprint: “My dear...”

Sr. M. Silvana has finally reached her Beloved, and we can imagine the joy of their meeting. May the Father, *rich in mercy and love*, embrace her with *the extraordinary richness of his grace* (cf. Eph 2) and give her the treasure of everlasting life.

Affectionately,

  
sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, July 9, 2024