



Dearest sisters,

At the Poor Sisters of the Visitation Nursing Home in Naples, at 4 p.m., one of our sisters was called to eternal life:

**D'AGOSTO Sr. LUCIA**  
**born in Nocera Inferiore (Salerno) on August 22, 1937**

Sr Lucia was a remarkable Pauline missionary, who dedicated her life to Africa from her youth with great love, offering all the natural and spiritual gifts with which she had been blessed. Last year, on the occasion of her 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee, she wrote, “Now, nearing the end of my life, the desire that Jesus be known and loved by all remains as alive in me as ever, a hope I sustain through prayer and sacrifice. I especially pray and offer intentions for the young women in formation, that they may become true Daughters of St. Paul, who are courageous and are always making progress.” She lived the beauty of the Pauline vocation with intensity and desired with her whole being “to keep the flame of the charism always alive with total trust in God.”

Before entering the congregation in Rome, on October 7, 1959, Sr. Lucia had obtained teaching certification. At the conclusion of her novitiate, she made her first profession in Rome on June 30, 1963. During her juniorate she completed her theological studies within the congregation. In 1966, while still a junior professed, she was assigned as a missionary to the Congo to devote herself to the formation of the first young women who entered the congregation locally as well as from Uganda, and Nigeria.

She returned to Italy for a brief time to prepare for perpetual profession which she made on June 30, 1968. As the time came for her to return to the Congo, however, the formation house had been closed in response to the decision of the Congolese episcopate to support local congregations. This change offered Sr. Lucia the opportunity for a rich apostolic experience in Lubumbashi, where she experienced the joy and emotion of the people when they *touched* copies of the Gospel and Bibles. She also served as local superior in that community.

With the reopening of the formation house in 1981, Sr. Lucia was appointed formator of postulants. She cherished the dream of being able to form many young African women to proclaim the Gospel in that immense continent. For this reason, too, she participated fully in the international course for novice directors held at Torvaianica. Upon her return to Congo in 1986, she wrote to the superior general: “I confide in you that for some time now, I have devoted myself fully to the Lord with a special intention for vocations, particularly in African lands. We look to the Lord for the greatest and most precious gift: vocations that are well selected, numerous, and holy.”

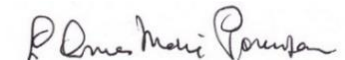
For about ten years, she accompanied the first five Congolese novitiate groups with much love and competence, forming young women who today are carrying out responsible positions in the congregation at various levels. Her former novices remember her as a “second mother” and emphasize her intense prayer life, amiability and gentleness, her attention to each person, and her great love for the people, families, and African culture. These qualities were often mentioned by the sisters when proposing Sr. Lucia as a delegation counselor and vicar.

In October 1995 Sr. Lucia was called to join the community in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), founded a few months earlier. It was a new reality with many challenges that Sr. Lucia accepted with great faith, also when she served as superior. In 2001 she realized it was time for her to return to Italy. But despite her increasingly fragile health, she did not rest. She was soon asked to serve as superior of the international student community at Borgo Angelico in Rome. With simplicity Sr. Lucia even did the shopping and cooking to relieve the sisters from the fatigue of study, especially those who knew little Italian.

In 2008 Sr. Lucia willingly welcomed a transfer to the Naples community where she continued to give of herself in small ways, especially at the switchboard. Last August, she fractured her femur, which, combined with other serious illnesses, required permanent inpatient care. Sr. Lucia lived the last few days of her life in a coma, yet it seems on the day before she died that she could sense the presence of two African sisters who brought her the gift of their presence and song in the *Lingala* language.

We imagine that Sr. Lucia embraced the Father, bringing with her all of Africa and the great dream she carried in her heart, which, in the year 2016, she summarized as follows, “Despite the poverty and littleness we experience, God will raise up vocations in every nation in the world, also in China, to bring the Good News to the men and women of today.”

Affectionately,



*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, October 25, 2024