St Amabile Visintainer
(1865 – 1942)

Photo: CAFOD

Sister Paulina, was born Amabile Lucia Visintainer in Italy in December 16, 1865. When she was 10 years old her family moved to Brazil.

Sister Paulina founded the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, dedicated to serving the poor.

In 1903 the growing community transferred the Mother-house to San Paulo, Ipiranga, where the sisters cared in particular for orphans, the children of slaves and slaves who had been left to die because they could no longer work.

Sister Pauline died on 9 July 1942. She was proclaimed a saint on 19 May 2002 by Pope John Paul II, the first Brazilian citizen for be canonized.

Be humble. Trust always and a great deal in divine Providence; never never must you let yourselves be discouraged, despite contrary winds. I say it again: trust in God and Mary Immaculate; be faithful and forge ahead!

Sources: www.catholic.org, www.saintpauline.org, www.catholicsaints.info

Prayer

A prayer from an ecumenical conference in Brazil, calling for an end to poverty as the first step on the path to peace through justice.

O Lord, God of life, who cares for all creation, give us your peace.

May our security not come from arms, but from respect,

May our force not be of violence, but of love.
May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.

May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.

May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness.

Open and confident, we want to defend the dignity of all creation, sharing, today and forever, the bread of solidarity and peace.

In the name of Jesus, your holy son, our brother, who, as victim of our violence, even from the heights of the cross gave us all forgiveness.

Amen.