

OBITUARY
SISTER ARGENTINA JUANA LENS, OSB
January 19, 1917 – November 3, 2010

Argentina Juana Lens was born in the city of Santa Fe, Argentina on January 29, 1917 to Ricardo Lens Oliver and Julieta Marasco. Her father was of Spanish origin while her mother from Italian roots. She was the third of four children: Ricardo Jose, Julieta, Maria, Argentina Juana and Blanca Liria.

She finished her studies in French with a gold medal at the Alliance Francaise. She also did a course in English, a little of Italian and Latin. From eight years old to 15 she studied music. At 15 she obtained the title of Professor of Theory and Solfege. She studied Sacred Music where she learned polyphonic and popular choir conducting, Gregorian Chant, liturgy and organ playing. She taught Gregorian chant at the School of Sacred Music of the Archdiocese.

In 1947 she asked Maria Leonor Lorenzo if she could make a private consecration to God. Maria Leonor at this time was initiating the foundation of a Pious Union called the Benedictinas de la Epifania in Sta. Fe. Argentina Juana was a big help to Maria Leonor in the foundation. Both decided to move to Buenos Aires in 1961 for further contacts with young ladies and to be nearer the abbey of the Benedictine monks for their spiritual formation. On July 9, 1964 they both made their perpetual profession as Benedictine Sisters of the Epiphany before Reverend Father Lorenzo Molinero, Abbot of San Benito of Buenos Aires.

In Buenos Aires, Sr. Argentina went into further studies in Gregorian chant with the choir master of the Abbey of St. Benedict who had his training at Solesmes. Endowed with great musical ear and a beautiful voice, she taught Gregorian chant for 32 years with passion. Having been trained in Greek and Hebrew, she also taught Sacred Scriptures.

On October 26, 1981, the Pious Union was recognized with a diocesan right. However, only five of the original group were left. Three of them were more than 75 years old and two in their 50s. The then Abbot of the Benedictine Monks of Lujan (a city in Buenos Aires) Martin de Elizalde, OSB suggested that the remaining five sisters be integrated with a more stable congregation. He mentioned to them the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing as the more possible congregation nearest to their charism

Sr. Argentina, who was one of The five sisters and her companions were officially integrated to the congregation on January 6, 1995. All the sisters became novices of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing for one canonical year and They made their final profession on February 10, 1998.

For the last nine years, 2001-2010, Sr. Argentina started to weaken. She was in and out of the hospital for various reasons.

On October 15, 2010 She was brought to the hospital where she was confined for twenty days. Her heart malfunctioned, so did her lungs and kidney. Still very lucid until her last breath, she died at the age of 93 after receiving the last sacraments in the hospital of St. Camillus in Buenos Aires on November 3, 2010.

Sister Lumen Gloria Dungca, OSB
Region of Argentina