

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

At about 9:45 this morning, the Virgin of Lourdes visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to accompany to the house of the Father our sister:

TACCONELLI ONORINA – SR. TERESINA
born in Vallec Castellana (Teramo), Italy on 27 March 1923.

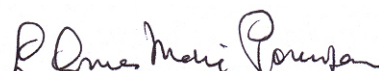
Sr. Teresina is one of the sisters in our Congregation who irradiated the joy of service through the unconditional and generous gift of herself to others. She entered the Congregation in Rome on 3 May 1942, while World War II was at its height. During her period of initial formation, she worked in the shipping department. She concluded her novitiate with her first profession on 19 March 1946. As a young professed, Sr. Teresina carried out the propaganda apostolate in Rome, Ancona and Lecce. Afterward, she was assigned to the Albano clinic, where she helped take care of FSPs suffering from tuberculosis. Looking back on those years, Sr. Teresina said: “Primo Maestro came to see us often and he said with great insistence: ‘You have to pray and offer yourselves for the sisters who carry out the direct apostolate, both here in Italy and abroad. You have to support their work and fatigue.’” In that same period, Maestra Thecla wrote Sr. Teresina a note on the back of a holy card, which she carefully preserved for the rest of her life. The message reads: “See the suffering Jesus in our sick sisters. When you serve the sick, imagine that you are serving the Blessed Mother. In performing humble tasks, imagine that you are serving Baby Jesus. Do your work quietly, serenely, in a spirit of prayer. Think continually of heaven.” These words became the guiding star of Sr. Teresina’s life, prompting her to carry out every duty assigned her with a joyful spirit, in the conviction that she was serving Jesus.

In 1953, she was transferred to Sassari and then to Rome to work in the St. Paul Film Agency. In 1965, without any preparation whatsoever, she was sent as a missionary to Japan, where she carried out various services for the sisters in our Tokyo community. With great generosity, Sr. Teresina took care of house maintenance, the kitchen, the vegetable garden, and also lent a hand in the bindery. She opened her heart to the people of Japan, little by little learning their language and culture, and for the rest of her life she preserved a special bond with this country.

In 1977, Sr. Teresina returned to Italy and was stationed for a short time at the Generalate. She was reassigned to Albano in 1980 and in this community she brought to completion the Lord’s plan for her life. For about 20 years, she was in charge of the hospital’s large pantry and was given the responsibility of preparing the meals for the patients and also the FSP community attached to the hospital. Her day began before dawn: at 4:00 a.m. she was already in chapel, recollected in the profound prayer that guided her entire day. Her spirit of faith, her industriousness and her readiness to dedicate herself unreservedly to the needs of others were proverbial. One of her typical comments—“Each one sweats in the way best suited to her,” by which she meant, “Each one does what she can for the good of others”—reveals her spirit of self-offering. Sr. Teresina’s industriousness was characterized by serenity and good humor. No one ever saw her sad or complaining. She felt herself to be at the heart of the Congregation she loved so deeply and remained tranquil because she was striving to do the will of God as manifested to her through her superiors. She participated wholeheartedly in community life, often sharing with the others sisters, with great simplicity and gratitude, her experiences in Japan.

During her long months of suffering as a result of Alzheimer’s disease, Sr. Teresina remained peaceful and joyful, thanking the sisters sincerely for the least service done for her. Toward the end of her life, certain words and phrases, including several in Japanese, were capable of recalling her to the present. It is wonderful to think that today, memorialized as World Day of the Sick, the Blessed Mother came to lead our sister to heaven, where she now contemplates for all eternity the face of her beloved Spouse, whom she loved and served with her entire being while here on earth.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 11 February 2012