

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 10:52 a.m. today, local time, the Lord called to himself a member of our Boston community as a result of bronchial complications. At 102, she was also the oldest member of our Congregation:

**BIOLCHINI LEA – SR. M. AUGUSTA**  
**born in Sestola (Modena), Italy on 13 March 1916.**

Sr. M. Augusta entered the Congregation in Alba on 1 May 1936, following in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. M. Carmela, who had entered the Institute 10 years earlier. As an aspirant, she immediately began to diffuse the Gospel in the Turin diocese, after which she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate. This stage of her formation concluded with her first profession on 3 March 1940.

As a young professed, Sr. Augusta carried out the propaganda apostolate in Alessandria and Gorizia. From Gorizia, she wrote to her sister: "I read in your note the beautiful resolution you made and found it very inspiring. How I hope that we are both able to put it into practice! May we really succeed in loving the Lord totally.... I feel that he wants us to be always more detached from the earth and to work only for heaven. I bless him a thousandfold for my religious vocation and for all those who through their prayers and tears helped me fulfill it. I see very clearly the hand of God in everything. It's like looking in a mirror. I often think: Would God have permitted all this for our harm? Never! Instead, he permits it for our greater good. Even if the effort to become a saint is tough and tiring, that too is the will of God. If we feel that we were called, it is a sign that Jesus, in his surpassing wisdom, wants to use even the nothingness and sin that we are to give us All, that is—his very self. What a joy it is to possess Jesus! Let us be brave and pray for each other...."

Bearing in her heart a great yearning to respond to the Lord, in 1958 Sr. Augusta left Italy as a missionary to the United States and she spent the rest of her life in that province, which she loved very much. When she became an American citizen in 1973, she exclaimed with joy: "I love America and my apostolate among the Americans!" From 1958-1980 she carried out the propaganda apostolate without interruption in the communities of Staten Island, Alexandria (LA), Boston, Fitchburg, Bridgeport, Philadelphia and Cincinnati.

A sister who often went out on propaganda with Sr. Augusta in the 1960's wrote: "Sr. Augusta was always fervent, pious and virtuous! We would compete with each other to see who could say the most ejaculations. Sr. Augusta's were always very wise and inspired by the Holy Spirit, for instance: 'From the desire to be esteemed...free me, O Lord.' Our arms and propaganda bags were always filled to the maximum: four bags overflowing with books when we set out in the morning and four bags filled with 'divine Providence' to take home in the evening. Our mode of transportation was the same one used by St. Paul: our feet! If only I had a picture of that.... We told each other: only in heaven will we see what we were here on earth. Heaven is a beautiful place; we will rest once we get there. Jesus, a good parish priest, will open the eternal gates of his parish to us."

"Propaganda" was the apostolate that characterized Sr. Augusta whole life. In 1980, she wrote: "My heart burns with desire to become a saint and to make my religious life an act of adoration and love for the glory of God and the salvation of souls." She said to her sister: "I am a happy woman: 33 years of propaganda are my glory!"

At the beginning of the 1980's, Sr. Augusta was transferred to the Boston community, where she worked in the sewing room. She was also an expert knitter, producing numerous shawls, scarves and caps to protect the sisters from the cold. For as long as her strength permitted, she would take a daily walk in the woods on our Boston property to visit "her" tree. She lived the last years of her life joyfully. The threads of wool that passed through her hands were the golden threads that kept her united to her Jesus. And her daily refrain was always the same: "Dear Jesus, everything I say, do and think is for you, my immense Good!"

We picture Sr. Augusta in eternal life as seated in the shadow of a big tree, where she is now resting and praising her Lord forever.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 28 March 2018