

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

At 2:30 a.m. last night, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our community in Alba, Italy to call to eternal intimacy with himself our sister:

**DEL BIANCO GESUALDA – SR. MARIA EDVIGE**  
**born in Avenale di Cingoli (Macerata), Italy on 24 September 1926.**

Following in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. Annunziatina, Sr. M. Edvige entered the Congregation in Alba on 29 August 1946. After a time of initial formation and work in the technical apostolate, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1950. She then worked for 22 consecutive years in the Alba bindery, carrying out the Pauline mission with competence and love. Her heart resonated with the convictions Blessed Timothy Giaccardo and Maestra Amalia had inculcated in the hearts of our sisters, namely: that although by nature “cold,” the instruments used in the technical apostolate could be “warmed” by ardent hearts and souls ready to immolate themselves so that the Gospel might reach everyone. Both Sr. M. Edvige and her sister, Sr. Annunziatina, were convinced that the technical apostolate, carried out with “clean hands and a pure heart,” could communicate grace and salvation to everyone.

In 1973, Sr. M. Edvige was assigned to the community of Domodossola, a small town close to the Swiss border and an important access route to numerous Alpine valleys. She spent the next 24 years in this serene and beautiful part of Italy, which remained forever in her heart. She rejoiced in the clean mountain air and enjoyed the simple family life of the FSP community, where everything was planned and carried out together: cooking, book center work and diffusion to the many tourist zones of the area. Sr. M. Edvige was a kind-hearted, good and obedient sister who deeply loved her Pauline vocation and generously dedicated her time and attention to fostering a serene and cordial atmosphere in her community.

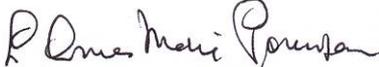
In 1997, she was transferred to Campobasso and afterward to Taranto, Terni, and Bologna successively. In these communities she carried out the service of cook in particular, along with other household duties. In 2014, due to advancing age, she returned to Alba so that she could receive the care she needed for Alzheimer’s disease. This malady made the last stage of her life very difficult because one of its effects was to make her very agitated—a painful situation for a person who had donated herself to her sisters and her responsibilities quietly, humbly and lovingly all her life.

In 2011, she had written: “I got to know the FSPs through the propaganda apostolate. They visited our house and met me and my sisters. Sr. Annunziatina was 9 years old at the time and wanted to become a nun. When she was 12, she left for Alba. Some years later, my other sister, Irma, wanted to do the same thing but our family doctor suggested that she wait awhile because her health was poor. So I said to her: ‘If you don’t go, then I will!’ Irma agreed to remain at home and take care of our parents so that I could go to Alba. Today I still want to dedicate all my energies to the Pauline mission. A lot of my time has been spent “plugging holes” to meet different needs, but that doesn’t matter to me. What is important is that the Pauline apostolate move forward. Prayer continues to urge me on. It is the Lord who has enabled me to move ahead. This has truly been my path in life and I would make the same choice a hundred time over!”

On another occasion, she wrote: “Jesus Master loves me and is drawing me to himself so that I can proclaim his love to everyone through my daily activities.... The Eucharist sustains every instant of my life.”

A few days ago, Sr. M. Edvige came down with the flu and subsequent complications led to her meeting with her Spouse on the vigil of the Feast of St. Joseph, the anniversary of her religious profession. Like this great saint, Sr. M. Edvige was a good and faithful servant who today was invited to share the joy of her Lord.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 18 March 2019