

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

At 9:30 this morning, local time, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Boston, United States community to call to eternal life our sister:

**FORTE ANGELICA – SR. MARIA CARITAS
born in Cattolica Eraclea (Agrigento), Italy on 1 January 1936.**

Diagnosed several years ago as suffering from a very aggressive form of Parkinson's disease, Sr. M. Caritas literally consumed her existence offering the Father her life day after day. About a year ago, her degenerative illness made it impossible for her to communicate with the external world and in these last weeks her vital organs began to shut down one by one. She communicated with others only by means of her eyes, which shone ever-more brightly. In this last, painful stage of her journey, she was accompanied with great love by the sisters of her community and also by her brother and sister, to whom she was very attached.

She entered the Congregation in Agrigento on 27 November 1954, and underwent her initial formation in Rome and Sassari, where she worked in the shipping department and carried out capillary and collective diffusion.

She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1958. As a young professed, she was assigned to the Livorno community, where she continued to carry out the beautiful but fatiguing mission of "propaganda," traveling the roads of Tuscany and entering hundreds of homes with her bag overflowing with formative books for people of all ages. After her perpetual profession in 1963, she returned to the diffusion apostolate, this time in the communities of Taranto and Bari. Wherever she went, she enriched our Pauline communities with the industriousness, generosity, docility and strong sense of responsibility she had inherited from her family.

In 1966 Sr. Caritas was sent as a missionary to Quebec, Canada. There she carried out the diffusion apostolate and also that of cook in the Montreal community and its branch house, Workman. In 1981, she was transferred to the community of Toronto in English-speaking Canada, which at that time was directly dependent on the General Government. There she dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the book center apostolate, welcoming everyone with her gentle smile, ready to meet the needs of each person to the full.

When the Toronto community became a part of our United States Province in 1989, Sr. Caritas too became a part of this large circumscription. She carried out various community services with great love, first in Cleveland, then in Boston, where she also worked in the shipping department and the slide and videocassette sectors. Transferred to New Orleans, she carried out book center services and various other forms of evangelization. In 1997, she joyfully returned to Toronto, where she worked for nine consecutive years in our large and beautiful book center. After a short time in St. Louis, she returned to Toronto a community that she had grown to love very deeply.

In 2014, the progression of Parkinson's disease made it advisable for her to be inserted in the Boston community. It was a difficult moment for Sr. Caritas, who wanted to spend the last period of her life in English-speaking Canada, where some of her loved ones also resided. But although with tears due to the suffering caused by this detachment, she surrendered herself to the will of the Lord as manifested through the desire of her superiors. We think that she must have lived this difficult moment with the same attitude with which she had faced another challenging period in her life. At that time, she had written: "I offer everything I am going through right now so that Christ will be glorified and proclaimed, and so that every Daughter of St. Paul will have the courage to live her vocation with sincerity and love."

We are sure that the apostolic heart of Sr. Caritas continues to throb for the needs of the countless people who turned to her for a word of comfort and hope. May the *caritas* of Christ that always urged her on and that served her as a program of life now give her eternal peace, light and joy in our heavenly homeland.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan".

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 1 February 2018