

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

At 3:05 p.m. on this Friday of Lent, our heavenly Father visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to call to himself our sister:

ROMA ROSA – SR. M. TECLA
born in Ovar (Porto, Portugal) on 27 February 1932.

Sr. M. Tecla, the Institute's first Portuguese vocation, entered the Congregation in Porto, Portugal on 1 August 1951 because she had been deeply struck by the chance to disseminate to everyone the Word of God and books on the Blessed Mother. She carried out the "propaganda" apostolate alongside the FSPs who had initiated the Pauline presence in Portugal, and she also worked in their small bindery.

In 1953 she was sent to Alba to undergo her initial formation. During this time, she worked in the technical apostolate and, following this, visited the families of the Trent diocese. In 1955, she began her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1956. Afterward, she was assigned to Portugal but in 1958 she returned to Italy due to serious health problems. From that time up until her death, she was a member of our Albano community, where, with a smile on her lips, she dedicated all her energies with great love, simplicity and selflessness to the many services asked of her.

Sr. Tecla spread peace, serenity, industriousness and a profound spirit of prayer wherever she went, offering her daily activities to God in a spirit of reparation so that the Gospel might be proclaimed throughout the world with all the forms and languages of communication. In the hospital, whether she was feeding the sick or working in the operating room, Sr. Tecla wanted her life to be a continual hymn of praise to the Lord.

In 1976, she obtained a degree in nursing so as to carry out her duties with greater professional skill. But her main concern was to help surgical patients prepare themselves spiritually for this significant event. Like a mother, she took their anxieties upon herself, prayed for them and helped them to pray in a spirit of faith, self-offering and surrender to God.

Sr. Tecla was happy whenever she was asked to make up part of the medical team from Albano that was always present at Castelgandolfo's heliport whenever the Pope arrived or left. With great pleasure, she would show others pictures of herself at the side of John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

She wrote in 1992: "I love our Congregation and I thank the Lord for my Pauline vocation. Even in the midst of my nursing duties, I feel our Pauline charism very profoundly and I am united in joyful prayer to every apostolic initiative carried out by our sisters throughout the world."

She often expressed her contentment at being a member of the Albano community and once confided: "I am happy with my vocation. I want to do the will of God every day. I offer him my health problems for our vocations in Portugal and throughout the world. I ask the Lord to give me the wisdom of heart to live always more deeply in Jesus Master and St. Paul." On her Golden Jubilee of profession, she wrote: "I rejoice that God has given me the grace to remain faithful to him for the past 50 years. In his goodness and mercy, he has always guided my Pauline journey. Although I am small and incapable, he loves me just as I am. He has accompanied me at every moment of my life, encouraging me and filling my heart with joy and serenity. I want my life to be a hymn of praise and gratitude to him for his immense love. He is my sole Good, my All."

Sr. M. Tecla's life was truly an uninterrupted hymn of praise to God. Many of the doctors and the countless patients she assisted in our hospital can testify to this. The same is true of the sisters of our Albano community, who "inhaled the perfume of her virtues" and say that Sr. Tecla continued to praise and thank God up to the last moment of her life.

Today it is our turn to thank Sr. M. Tecla and entrust to her with great faith not only our Portuguese vocations but also our Queen of Apostles Hospital and its personnel, whom she deeply loved and who loved her deeply in return. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 9 March 2018