

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

At 4:00 a.m. today, the Virgin Mary visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to accompany to heaven one of our sisters after all long and painful illness:

SCICHILONE SR. GIUSEPPA (GIUSEPPINA)
born in Aragona (Agrigento), Italy on 21 November 1934.

Sr. Giuseppina entered the Congregation on 27 April 1958 in Agrigento and from there was sent to join the group of aspirants in Rome. As a postulant, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in Sassari and then returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her profession on 30 June 1962. She spent her Juniorate in Turin, carrying out the “propaganda” apostolate with love and zeal. After her perpetual profession in 1967, she was sent as a missionary to Germany, where she remained until 2010, when a severe form of Parkinson’s disease made it necessary for her to be reassigned to the James Alberione community (Albano), Italy.

In Germany, Sr. Giuseppina made a very effective contribution to the initiation of our presence in Düsseldorf, above all through the apostolate of diffusion of the Word of God to families, schools and businesses, as well as the restocking of many libraries. Our first missionaries to this country wrote: “Our propaganda in the cities is not easy because half the people are Protestant and also because many of them are not home when we visit.” In that period, our sisters’ most fruitful apostolates were their visits to the country’s many Italian immigrants and their book displays.

In 1981, Sr. Giuseppina was made the superior of Düsseldorf and served two terms of office there. She was then assigned to the Nurnberg book center, where she worked until 1989, when she was asked to open and launch an FSP community in Frankfurt. She was appointed superior of that community and carried out this service for two mandates. Afterward, she returned to Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Nurnberg successively.

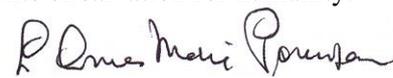
The sisters who lived with Sr. Giuseppina highlight her delicacy of soul, generosity and commitment to the apostolate and to the study of German in spite of her initial difficulty with the language. Always positive in outlook, she was able to discover the good and the beautiful in everything. She never spared herself in the apostolate and in the community, carrying out her services wholeheartedly. Her skills at embroidery and painting were deeply appreciated and the religious greeting cards she designed are still disseminated not only in our book centers in Germany but also in many FSP centers throughout the world.

Everyone found it easy to joke and laugh with Sr. Giuseppina, who possessed the wit typical of her Sicilian heritage. She was deeply attached to her family and whenever she went home on vacation she was always ready to assist her relatives in practical ways, offer them wise advice and give catechism lessons to the younger generation.

In a personal reflection dated 13 January 2009, she reveals the secret of her life and the profound motivations that accompanied her last years, which were marked by intense suffering due to the physical rigidity and immobility provoked by Parkinson’s disease. “I yearn,” she says, “to offer my entire being, extremely poor as it is, for the lofty intention of Jesus Master, which is to save all humanity. Our Pauline mission is the same as that of St. Paul, expressed for us today through Blessed James Alberione. Now I am no longer able to work as I once did, but I am striving to be as much a Pauline as I was then. I thank the Lord every day for honoring me by choosing me to be a Daughter of St. Paul. The more we move ahead in life, the more we realize how much grace the Lord is pouring out upon us. Through his Word, he reveals himself to us as Love, infinite Goodness and endless Mercy.” In another place, Sr. Giuseppina describes her spiritual experience in this way: “I feel like I am a tiny link in the long chain of persons called in the Old and New Testaments. We are mobile ostensoriums from which Christ illuminates, warms and comforts all the people we meet.”

Sr. Giuseppina was this ostensorium in her years of intense apostolic activity and even moreso in her years of suffering, the culminating point of her life. Now she is presenting to him the many intentions that were particularly close to her heart, especially our young women, asking him to give them the courage to surrender themselves completely into his hands so as to become instruments of salvation for humanity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 1 May 2019