

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

As the sun broke over the horizon on the last day of the year, the light of the divine Word poured into the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, Italy, to wrap in eternal splendor our sister:

**ZUNCHEDDU ANTONICA – SR. MARIA IMMACOLATINA
born in Osilo (Sassari), Italy on 13 June 1922.**

Everything happened very quickly. At about 3:00 a.m. last night, Sr. Immacolatina began showing signs of discomfort, after which she fell into a deep sleep. It was a prelude to the sleep of death because at 6:50 a.m. the Lord called her quietly to himself, in silence, humility, discretion and peace, in keeping with the lifestyle of our sister, who wrote a few years ago:

“I live in joy because my life is spent for God.” This sentence sums up the long life of our dear sister, who always lived in serenity and docility to the Lord. In 1969, when the provincial superior asked each sister what she desired for the future, Sr. M. Immacolatina replied: “My great desire is to be a handkerchief in the hands of the superiors, ready at every moment to carry out their will for the glory of God and the good of my soul and of my beloved Congregation, in which I am seeking, day after day to spend all my energies for the salvation of souls.”

Bringing with her the gifts of her simplicity, joy and industrious nature, Sr. M. Immacolatina entered the Congregation at the age of 23 in the community of Sassari. The date was 2 November 1945. She was quickly transferred from Sardinia to Rome to undergo her initial formation but since she was already a mature person she spent most of this period carrying out the “propaganda” apostolate to the families and collectivities of Salerno and Cagliari. She returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1949. Immediately afterward, she returned to the apostolate of capillary diffusion, laden with bags overflowing with books and a heart burning with apostolic passion. For the next 20 years, she carried out this mission in the dioceses of Nuoro, Agrigento, Palermo and Grosseto.

In 1969, she was appointed superior of our Nuoro community. At the end of her term of office, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency, first in Verona and then in Cagliari, where she double-checked the films returned by parishes, schools and various institutes.

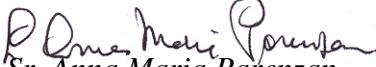
Having completed her basic education before entering the Congregation, Sr. M. Immacolatina never asked for any cultural updating even when it would have been possible for her to participate in some courses. Instead, she preferred to dedicate herself full time and with great generosity to the various services entrusted to her by obedience. Her “culture” was that of the Gospel, rich in wisdom and faith. Assiduous prayer, meditation on the Word and Eucharistic adoration filled her with grace and enabled her to detect the voice of the Lord in every situation and event.

Sr. M. Immacolatina patiently sketched out and perfected the masterpiece of her life day after day by means of her service to her sisters in the laundry rooms of our Bologna, Albano, Torvaianica and Provincialate communities. She also served as vice-superior of the Provincialate community for a number of years. Wherever she went, Sr. M. Immacolatina spread love, courtesy, understanding and tenderness, and in her simplicity witnessed to the humanizing power of the Gospel.

Now that she contemplates the glory of the Father, we entrust to her intercession the year that is ending and the new one that is beginning, asking her to help us live 2015 in a spirit of praise and thanksgiving to God.

With deep affection,

Rome, 31 December 2014


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General