

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

At 9:30 this morning, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Motherhouse in Alba, Italy, to call to himself a great Pauline missionary:

MEGGIOLARO ADELINA – SR. M. LIDIA
born in Palù (Verona), Italy on 2 September 1923

Sr. Lidia entered the Congregation in Rome on 3 November 1947 after having overcome, with the grace of God, her initial resistance to the Founder's insistent invitations to take this step. She was assigned to carry out the propaganda apostolate in Bari and then in Grottaferrata. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1950. Immediately afterward, her mission *ad gentes* was revealed through her superiors: in fact, on 2 May of that same year she was sent to Japan to help the sisters of Fukuoka and then Tokyo, who were going through the difficult foundation period in that country. In 1958, she was sent to the United States to carry out the diffusion apostolate for two years so as to be able to send back precious economic help to our Japanese communities. But God's surprises for Sr. Lidia were not over. She herself has left us the following testimony:

"While I was in America, I received a letter from Prima Maestra Thecla telling me to not return to Japan but to go instead to Korea. Accepting this directive with faith and counting on the power of the *Pact*, I left the United States on board an American ship destined for Kobe, Japan. I took with me many books in Japanese and English and a lot of other things because our Korean foundation was just beginning and needed everything. As we approached the port of Inchon, Korea, my heart exploded with immense joy. It was January 1961 and the founding sisters had arrived just one month before me. With the material I brought, we were able to immediately begin book displays in our parish—a service we continued until 14 November 1961, the unforgettable day on which we opened our first book center in Seoul. We also launched the printing apostolate, then joyfully welcomed our first vocations and after that were blessed by the visit of Prima Maestra Thecla. Another great satisfaction was the purchase of a piece of property on which to build our house. We wanted it to be a big one so as to be able to accommodate many vocations. We all helped to make the bricks for the house. I remember we made 173,000 of them thanks to the help of the American soldiers, who brought us truckloads of sand and cement. As the building took shape, I thanked God with all my heart for giving me the chance to work in Korea—a country I deeply loved and continue to love.

Sr. Lidia lived in the community of Seoul for 15 years, where she enthusiastically carried out the propaganda apostolate, as well as many other activities that helped to support the community. She also served as a councilor and bursar of the fledgling Delegation. It was an immense joy for her to be able to return to the circumscription in 2010, when our Korean Province celebrated its 50th anniversary of foundation. She wrote: "I am so happy! I wanted to rediscover the traces of the seeds we had sown in this country with the spirit of our Founder, Maestra Thecla and St. Paul. Those seeds sprouted roots and have grown into a big tree that is bearing abundant fruit!"

In 1975, Sr. Lidia left Korea in a true spirit of obedience and returned to Italy. Upon her arrival, she was assigned to the Generalate community. We all remember the generosity and dedication with which she carried out the service of driver and cultivated the big kitchen garden and fruit orchard, not to mention the many rabbits she raised, which made a weekly appearance on our menu. About 3 years ago, she accepted with suffering a transfer from the Generalate community, with its international atmosphere, to the Motherhouse of Alba, where she could receive the assistance she needed for her failing health. Although her great missionary heart continued to throb in unison with the FSPs throughout the world, the Lord had called her to her last "mission," namely: to witness to a love that prompted her to offer her life for the Pauline apostolate up to the very end. This morning a heart attack unexpectedly opened the gates of heaven to her.

We want to thank Sr. Lidia for her generous self-donation and we entrust to her intercession in a special way our Korean Province, which she loved profoundly, and also our sisters of Japan, who remember her with nostalgia and gratitude.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 19 May 2017