

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

At 5:30 this morning the Lord Jesus, our radiant Morning Star, knocked on the infirmary door of our community in Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

MORBINI GIULIA – SR. MARIA LUISA
born in Gottolengo (Brescia), Italy on 9 April 1931.

The younger sister of two other deceased Daughters of St. Paul, Sr. M. Paola and Sr. M. Giovanna, Sr. M. Luisa followed their example and entered the Congregation in the house of Alba on 5 September 1951, bringing with her as a gift her positive, serene, docile and hard-working character, and above all her great desire “to have the heart of Jesus.” After several years spent in formation and in the technical apostolate, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1955. During her Juniorate, she carried out the itinerant apostolate in the diocese of Rimini and had the opportunity to perfect her culture by taking a theoretical-practical course in the Congregation. After making her perpetual profession in Rome in 1960, she joyfully and willingly resumed the mission of diffusing the Gospel to families and businesses in Coma and Taranto, while in Sondrio, Campobasso, Aquila and Biella she dedicated herself to the book center apostolate. In Lodi, she carried out various community services for a time, writing to her provincial superior: “Obedience has always brought me great joy.” She lived day after day with this open-hearted attitude, happy to make other people happy.

In 1983, Sr. M. Luisa began a new stage of her Pauline life, dedicated especially to the care and assistance of the Congregation’s sick sisters, first in Alba and then in Ariccia-Galloro. She confided: “It is wonderful to be close to humble and good people like our elderly sisters, who reflect the peace and serenity that God gives to his own.” She said that these sisters were an “undeserved” gift to her and in their company she expanded her heart, trying to foresee their needs, bring them peace and communion, and cheer up their daily lives through her drawings—all signs of the attention and benevolence with which she carried out her service.


She later had the chance to work in the Ancona and Sulmona book centers before being assigned to the Albano community in 1987. While there, she pursued a degree in professional nursing in nearby Genzano. After obtaining her diploma, she put her training to good use in the Thecla Merlo, James Alberione and Ariccia-Galloro communities, all in the Albano area. Feeling herself to be fully “Pauline,” she offered to go to Africa when the Congregation launched its Missionary Project in 1992, remaining open to the decision of her superiors in the certainty that they represented the will of God for her. But it turned out that her mission was to remain among the suffering members of the Congregation so as to alleviate their pain in a creative and loving way.

Sr. M. Luisa was transferred to Alba in 2002 and in that community she continued to dedicate herself with simplicity, kindness and joy to the services entrusted to her. She carried in her heart the advice she had received from her sister, Sr. M. Giovanna: “Luisa,” her sister had said, “we are getting to the end of our days. We should talk less and pray more! People need love, not scolding!” In striving to spread warmth and tenderness, Sr. M. Luisa made it a habit to avoid defending herself or complaining, but instead to confidently await the right moment for reconciliation. In her simplicity, she was like a sentinel—“concerned with keeping the desire for God alive in the world and awakening in the hearts of many people a thirst for the infinite” (Pope Francis).

For the last four years of her life, Sr. M. Luisa herself needed the help and support of her sisters due to a form of dementia that frequently caused her to fall into a comatose state. For the last few days of her life, she was in one of those states, unresponsive to stimuli, seemingly awaiting the star that today appeared on her horizon to cover her with its light and fill her with its joy.

Affectionately,

Rome, 6 January 2021
Feast of the Epiphany


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan