

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

At 2:30 p.m. today, Feast of the Apostle James, the Lord visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

DE SIMONE LETIZIA – SR. MARIA ROMANA
born in Serino (Avellino), Italy on 22 May 1931.

We will always remember Sr. M. Romana's dignified bearing and gracious behavior, which she maintained during her illness (senile dementia). The malady, however, did not succeed in making her forget the long years she had spent in the apostolate and, above all, in the service of superior.

Sr. M. Romana entered the Congregation in Rome on 12 September 1942, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. Anna Maria, who had entered the Institute several months earlier. During her time of initial formation, young Letizia had the chance to experience the extraordinary efficacy of capillary and collective diffusion by simply and kindly offering everyone the Word of God and other books suited to the many categories of people she encountered.

After her perpetual profession, celebrated in Alba on 19 March 1955, she spent about 10 years carrying out the book center apostolate in Verona, Taranto, Matera and Palermo. Sr. M. Romana's contact with the spiritual and moral needs of the people who frequented our "churches" gave a particular color to her prayers and increased her desire to study and update herself. The services to which she was destined over the years did not permit her to pursue systematic studies, but she was always keenly aware of the need to deepen her knowledge so as to carry out the Pauline mission well.


In 1973, Sr. M. Romana was appointed superior of the Treviso community—a service that she subsequently fulfilled in Taranto, Terni, Arezzo and Ferrara successively. Her many and intense experiences in those years forged her character, stamping it with the decisiveness and authoritativeness that distinguished her even in her illness. Her various terms of office as superior were interspersed with times dedicated to the book center apostolate.

In 2011, Sr. M. Romana's precarious health made it advisable to transfer her to Naples/ Capodimonte, where she carried out small but precious community services. In June 2017, she was taken to Albano because she was suffering from an acute infection that was difficult to eradicate. She was welcomed into the San Raffaele wing of the community, where she serenely spent the last two years of her life. Always grateful to the sisters and infirmary personnel who took care of her, she spent long periods of time in prayer, and in spite of her dementia she interacted with the other sick sisters with great kindness and cordiality. Sr. M. Romana was very close to her family of origin and also cultivated strong bonds of affection for the Congregation and the sisters with whom she lived. She continued to pour out this affection on all those around her up to the very end, leaving everyone with very fond memories of her.

In the Liturgy for the Feast of the Apostle James, we read Paul's words: "I believe and therefore I speak." Sr. M. Romana sought to incarnate this dictum in her life as an apostle, placing in communion with her sisters what was most precious and vital to her: Christ the Master dwelling within her.

Let us place this dear sister in the hands of the Lord, asking him to enable her to joyfully reap the harvest of her fidelity to him and her generous self-donation to the Pauline mission. And let us entrust to Sr. M. Romana's intercession all our sick sisters and also our upcoming General Chapter.

With deep affection,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 25 June 2019