



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

At 7:30 a.m. today, the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to call one of our sisters to enjoy forever “what is above”:

DEL BIANCO LUISA – SR. MARIA MAURILIA
born in Avenale di Cingoli (Macerata), Italy on 26 May 1925.

In her simplicity and humility, Sr. M. Maurilia fixed her thoughts continually on “what is above” and yearned for the moment of her joyous meeting with the risen Lord. Ten years ago, when she celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession, she wrote: “With a heart overflowing with joy, I want to say a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to God. I feel very small, incapable and inadequate in everything but, renewing my *yes* every day, I hope to reach the degree of love that Jesus is asking of me so that I can meet death in an ever-more pure and obedient state, carrying out the will of Jesus Master in keeping with the example of St. Paul.” The will of God was truly the beacon that illuminated her entire life.

Sr. Maurilia entered the Congregation in Alba on 30 June 1946 at the age of 21, fortified by a strong faith cultivated in the years she belonged to the Young Women’s Movement of Catholic Action. After completing her initial formation, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1949.

Immediately afterward, she was assigned to the community of Alba, where she spent the next 20 years working with great generosity and enthusiasm in the technical apostolate. Following this, she carried out the service of cook and other household duties for more than 40 years (1968-2010) in the communities of San Benedetto, Perugia, Livorno, Bologna, Ancona, Rome (Via dell’Arcadia), Savona and the provincial house. Then it was back to Ancona and Livorno for a second stint in those communities. All the sisters admired Sr. Maurilia’s continuous and joyful self-donation, day after day, which was nourished by her relationship with the Divine Master in the Tabernacle. She longed to place all her energies at the service of everyone, convinced that anything she was asked to do, including “behind the scenes work” in the kitchen and laundry, could be transformed into a lofty form of apostolate. Sr. Maurilia’s life truly witnessed to love, joyous dedication, and a profound spirit of obedience and poverty.

In 1969, she wrote to her provincial superior: “I made a very thorough examination of conscience before the Tabernacle today and realized that I am very happy to be exactly where God has placed me. I am absolutely sure that I will never attain joy and peace by doing the things I think would be best for me. But I know that I will certainly find these gifts wherever the Lord puts me. I started out with this attitude on the day of my religious profession and with the grace of Jesus Master I have preserved this outlook even when faced with very serious problems. I hope to continue this style of life in the future, so as to experience even more joy in my heart...”

In 2010, Sr. Maurilia was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano, so as to receive the care she required for diabetes and also for hyperthyroidism, which had caused her to lose her voice. Her quiet, serene presence and deep attachment to the rosary allowed the other sisters to glimpse the peace that filled her heart. This past June Sr. Maurilia celebrated her 70th anniversary of religious profession, bringing the Eucharistic gifts to the altar in her wheelchair during the Offertory procession. Three days ago, she suddenly developed serious liver and intestinal problems that quickly hastened her encounter with the Lord. Now, more than ever, her life is “hidden with Christ in God” and, clothed with the robe of salvation, she has united her voice to that of the heavenly choir.

While we thank this dear sister for her quiet, hard-working life among us, we entrust to her our upcoming General Chapter, asking that it might be, for all of us, an opportunity to truly seek “what is above, and not what is on earth.”

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 4 August 2019