

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

At 5:25 p.m. this evening, our good and merciful Father visited the infirmary of our Motherhouse in Alba, Italy to call to the eternal peace and joy of his kingdom, our sister:

AIMO MARIA – SR. ANGELA MARIA
born in Gratteria di Mondovì (Cuneo), Italy on 19 October 1925.

The life of this dear sister was a hymn of praise and gratitude to God. When she celebrated her 50th anniversary of profession, she wrote: “I entered the Congregation on 29 January 1939. Looking back over the years, all I see is God’s goodness and the infinite graces he poured out on me. He could not have shown greater kindness and patience toward me.... I love the Pauline vocation very much. If I had to make a choice today, I know I would not hesitate a moment to choose the Daughters of St. Paul all over again. I feel completely fulfilled. There is nothing more I could ask for.... I thank God above all for my life as a missionary....”

Sr. Angela was only 14 years old when she entered the Congregation in Alba. She learned the art of bookbinding with great enthusiasm and became an expert above all in the binding of prayer books. After a time dedicated to various apostolic experiences, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1946. As a young professed, she carried out the Pauline mission in the St. Paul Film Agency of Rome and in the book centers of Salerno and Palermo. Considering her vocational maturity, she was appointed superior of the Trapani community in 1963. At the end of her term of office, she was ready to take flight toward other unexpected destinations, where millenary cultures and new peoples to love awaited her. For several months she taught our young women in Mumbai, India how to carry out the technical apostolate but soon obedience sent her to Pasay City, Philippines, where she continued the service of training our young sisters in the art of printing. Above all, she transfused into them the Pauline conviction concerning the sacredness of the apostolic equipment and the places in which they worked.

In July 1968, Sr. Angela received a new call: she was asked to go to Lahore, Pakistan to open a Pauline community there and serve as its superior. Together with other FSP missionaries, she lived the difficult foundation period: looking for living quarters, learning Urdu, getting to know the customs and traditions of a large population made up of many ethnic groups.... A book center was quickly opened to provide the Christian minority and also the Muslims of this country with books and audiovisuals in English and Urdu. Understanding the need for indigenous vocations, Sr. Angela urged the sisters to begin the vocation apostolate and to welcome young women. In 1972, a pre-postulancy program was launched in Lahore and three years later a novitiate was set up. When her service as superior ended, Sr. Angela dedicated herself to book center activities, disseminating along with the Bible and formative books the perfume of her humility and simplicity.

In 1982, she returned to Italy and was asked to serve as superior of the Via Bosio community, Rome. But her heart longed for the missions and at the end of her mandate she joyfully welcomed a transfer to Kampala, Uganda where, in addition to various forms of apostolate, she once again carried out the service of superior. In 2001 she was transferred again, this time to Nairobi, Kenya, where she worked as assistant formator. With her habitual availability and industriousness, she also carried out other services wherever needed. The sisters remember that even when she was at the reception desk she found the time to fold the signatures of the books printed in the community’s small typography.

In 2007, Sr. Angela left the mission *ad gentes*: first for Albano, Italy and then for Alba, where she continued to make herself useful in a thousand different ways. In 2010 she wrote: “It was hard for me to leave the mission I love so much, but it is a great grace to have this time to prepare myself for heaven. The years are speeding by, but I am very peaceful and serene. I have received so much from the Congregation! I am very happy with my vocation, very happy to be a Pauline. How is it that the Lord gave me such a great gift? I did not deserve it. Everything is a gift. How I would rejoice to see many young women respond to this call....”

Sr. Angela spent the last years of her life in silence, docilely accepting everything the Lord disposed for her. A few months ago she suffered a stroke and her physical condition began to steadily decline. But God our good Father was preparing her to be his own forever and to cause the beneficent rays of the “sun of justice” to rise on her. Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 10 October 2019