

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

At about 6:00 this morning, the Divine Master visited our Motherhouse of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister

**AUDISIO CATERINA – SR. MARIA ANTONIETTA
born in Entracque (Cuneo), Italy on 29 September 1921**

It is not easy to sketch out the Pauline personality of this strong and courageous sister—a formator, teacher, expert archivist and an extremely hard worker, who dedicated herself without reserve to the Pauline mission even in old age and sickness.


Sr. M. Antonietta entered the Congregation in Alba on 20 Sept. 1933 at the age of 12. Assigned to the typography, she was filled with enthusiasm to learn this work and soon surpassed many of her companions in speed and precision. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1941. As a young professed she was sent to the Massa community but obedience soon launched her into life as a missionary—an adventure that would lead her to Latin America and elsewhere. In fact, in 1947, M. Thecla sent her to Argentina, where she was asked to teach the young aspirants, launch the writing apostolate and take charge of typesetting the *Family Magazine*. When she was transferred to Brazil in 1950, Sr. M. Antonietta confided that it cost her a lot to leave Argentina, where she had felt like “a sister among sisters.”

In Porto Alegre, Brazil she was immediately placed in charge of 60 aspirants, whom she also taught. At that time, a new house was being built for the community and all the members collaborated with the work by carrying bricks to the construction site. They slept in bunk beds in a huge shed that had been set up in the courtyard. Remembering those happy years, Sr. M. Antonietta wrote: “The responsibilities I was given made me forget myself and root myself heart and soul in Brazil.”

In 1961, after 11 years as formator of the circumscription’s candidates, Sr. M. Antonietta was transferred to Sao Paulo, where she was asked to prepare the juniors for perpetual profession. At the same time, she was able to continue her own studies in theology and obtain a License in this field. In 1967, health problems made it necessary for Sr. M. Antonietta to return to Italy. While there, she collaborated with the Italian-Latin American Ecclesial Center (CEIAL). But her journeys abroad were not yet over. In 1976, a telephone call from Superior General Ignazia Balla once again changed the course of Sr. M. Antonietta’s life by sending her to Colombia, where she served as superior of the Medellin and Cucuta communities and also worked in the book center. In 1982 she once again returned to Italy, never imagining that obedience had a new experience in store of her—one that she embraced with her habitual enthusiasm and faith, trusting in the grace of her Pauline vocation. In fact, she was asked to work as secretary to the Vice-Prefect of the Vatican Archives and to put in order the documents of the Apostolic Nunciatures, in particular that of Naples. Upon her retirement from this office, she was awarded the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” medal of honor in gratitude for her 10 years of intelligent and loving service of the Holy See. At the award ceremony, the head of the Dicastery said: “Sr. M. Antonietta did everything with such speed that from her first day in the office she was given the nickname *Gone with the Wind*. All a person had to do was mention a problem and she would immediately set to work to resolve it....”

In 1993, at the age of 72, Sr. M. Antonietta generously accepted a transfer to our Portuguese Delegation. On that occasion, she wrote: “I am setting out with fear and trembling. My only ‘luggage’ is my trust in the Queen of Apostles and in our major superiors.” In 2003, she returned to Italy definitively and was assigned to the community of Alba, where she continued to offer everyone a vibrant witness of faith, prayer, suffering and work. Like the “strong women” of the Bible, she serenely welcomed a final and painful “trial” in the form of cancer of the tongue, for which she underwent a painful operation several months ago. Sr. M. Antonietta lived her Pauline life actively and vigorously up to the very end, irradiating to all her faith, love, great trust in obedience and desire to give herself to God and the Congregation. In her *curriculum vitae*, the final stage of her journey reads “heaven,” written in her own hand. And we are sure that now, having reached her goal, she is rejoicing in the midst of all the sisters and brothers who form the Pauline Family there.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 10 November 2010