

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At about 5:00 this evening, the Lord visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister

**BAIGUERA GIULIA – SR. MARIA BENEDETTA**  
**born in Alfianello (Brescia), Italy on 8 February 1920.**

The sweet smile that habitually lit the face of Sr. M. Benedetta revealed the wealth of her heart—a good, kind and humble heart, overflowing with love for the sisters with whom she shared the rhythms of daily life with great fidelity up until just a few days ago. Although her stiffened leg muscles made it hard for her to walk, she refused to cede to the march of time and made the courageous effort to remain an active member of her beloved Alba community for as long as possible. But in the last few days, a simple case of the flu led to the progressive weakening of her heart, which was already very fragile as a result of five bypass operations. Thus Sr. M. Benedetta quietly passed to eternity, leaving behind her the example of a life that was lived in harmony with her name (“benedetta”—“blessing”). In fact, she was truly a blessing to everyone in both word and deed.

Sr. M. Benedetta entered the Congregation on 31 May 1939 in the community of Brescia. A short time later she was sent to Alba to begin her formation. She spent most of this period in the bindery, where she became an expert in the art of book gilding. She made her canonical novitiate in Rome and concluded it with her first profession on 19 March 1943, at the height of World War II.

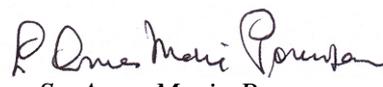
In 1947, Sr. M. Benedetta began her “pilgrimage” to various communities of Italy, where she disseminated the Word of God abundantly. After carrying out this apostolate in Trapani, Potenza and Campobasso, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency of Reggio Emilia and then to that of Rome. Over the years, she also worked for both long and short periods in the central shipping office of Rome.

With her characteristic gentleness, Sr. M. Benedetta also carried out for several years the service of receptionist and phone operator in different communities in Rome and also at Albano. In 2000, she was transferred to the Motherhouse of Alba, where she performed many different duties, including that of making rosaries, striving to help meet the many needs of this large community for as long as her health permitted. Sr. M. Benedetta was fully convinced that the Lord continually poured out his gifts upon her. It amazed her to think that Jesus, her Beloved, made himself small enough to fit into human hands and that he allowed himself to be enclosed in a tabernacle. This same amazement was expressed by our Founder during the course of spiritual exercises he guided for her novitiate group prior to their first profession. On that occasion Fr. Alberione said: “Who could ever count the many special graces the Lord gives a person? We can truly exclaim: ‘How good the Lord is! How good he is to us! Love Jesus and, above all, have faith in him. He is calling you to holiness and he has placed in your hands many instruments to reach this goal.’”

Sr. M. Benedetta enriched our Congregation and the whole Pauline Family with her simplicity, love, and daily self-surrender into the hands of the Father. And now, at long last, she contemplates her Jesus and can ask him directly, without intermediaries, why he chose to set aside his immense grandeur in order to become small enough to dwell among us in a tiny tabernacle.

Sr. M. Benedetta’s life was an eloquent expression of the prayer of today’s Liturgy: “When will I see the face of God?” Now the Lord has satisfied her great yearning for him by filling her to overflowing with the Living Water that cleanses and purifies, saves and heals us from every ill.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 8 March 2010