

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

At about 6:45 this morning, the Divine Master visited the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, Italy to call to eternal life and intimacy with himself our sister

BARON TOALDO CLARA – SR. MARIA CECILIA
born in Molvena (Vicenza), Italy on 2 January 1928.

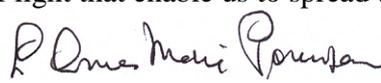
Sr. M. Cecilia has left us the memory of her great enthusiasm for the Pauline vocation and apostolate, her wonderful ability to communicate with others and her burning desire to bring the Word of God to everyone. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 1 Dec. 1948. Two years earlier she had received a teaching degree and in her youthful enthusiasm she was happy to dedicate herself completely to the Lord. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. As a young professed, she continued her studies in philosophy and theology in the Via Antonino Pio community, Rome. In 1955 she was transferred to Alba, where she dedicated herself to the diffusion apostolate, vocation work and teaching the younger members of the Institute. Sr. M. Cecilia was a true animator—capable of guiding others to the point that they exploded with enthusiasm for the Pauline mission. The sisters who lived with her in those years remember the love with which she organized Bible Missions and the satisfaction with which she diffused Bibles that were in the price-range of everyone. A true teacher, she motivated our young members in the “school of the apostolate,” helping them to carry out the mission of the Institute with greater joy and competence.

Sr. M. Cecilia’s experiences in Alba prepared her to take on the challenges of life abroad. In fact on 15 Sept. 1964, she and Sr. Elena Barchetti arrived in Cologne, Germany to open the first FSP community in this country. In actual fact, the house was opened in Dusseldorf because it was easier to find property there for a residence and book center. As superior of the new foundation, Sr. M. Cecilia launched our apostolate and vocation work in Germany.

In 1972 she returned to Italy, where she served for a time as head of one of the groups of the Alba community. After this she was transferred to Reggio Emilia to work in the diocesan vocation office. As always, Sr. M. Cecilia was happy to share the gift of the Pauline vocation with the many young women she met. In 1975 she began a new stage in her life: collaborating with the SSP to promote all the Pauline book centers of Italy. Her apostolic enthusiasm found dynamic expression in this mission and revealed her ability to work with others to make our Pauline book centers the centers of light and activity, the “pulpits” for proclaiming the Word, that our Founder wanted them to be. With simplicity, intelligence and expertise, Sr. M. Cecilia communicated to FSPs and SSPs alike her great passion for the apostolate. She got to know every book center and all their personnel. She felt the needs of these “pulpits” and was happy to help any member of the staff who turned to her for clarifications or requests. She radiated peace, communion and harmony wherever she went.

In 1985, Sr. M. Cecilia was assigned to Udine and afterward served as superior of our Brescia community for one term. In the 1990’s, she continued her book center work in Trieste and Udine, but at this point her physical strength was beginning to decline. While at Udine, she was diagnosed as suffering from cancer of the spine, which then spread to the bone marrow. She spent the last two years of her life in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, where she continued to keep up-to-date concerning the needs of the Church, the Congregation and the world by assiduous reading and by following the daily news. She was always happy to have visitors, especially the members of her family, who accompanied her calvary with great solidarity and love. Her sister, Sr. M. Donata, also a Daughter of St. Paul, was present when Sr. M. Cecilia passed to eternity.

We want to entrust to Sr. M. Cecilia all our Pauline book centers throughout the world, asking her to take care of them and transform them into centers of light that enable us to spread the Gospel everywhere. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 2 March 2011