

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

At about 11:00 a.m. this morning, God, our good Father, visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community, Rome, Italy to call to himself our sister:

**BAXIU SR. GIOVANNA (GIANNINA)**  
**born in Padua, Italy on 3 March 1929.**

Sr. Giannina entered the Congregation in Alba on 3 Nov. 1951, after having obtained a degree as an elementary school teacher. She made her initial formation and novitiate in this community, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1954. Immediately afterward, she was assigned to Turin, where she was asked to work in the Diocesan Catechetical Office. Afterward she was transferred to Rome to complete her academic studies in philosophy and theology.

In 1957, Sr. Giannina was sent to Mexico as a missionary. She made the trip in the company of Sr. Diomira Trolli, who was returning there after a time of rest in Italy. In Mexico City, Sr. Giannina worked in the typography and also carried out the propaganda apostolate. After this, she was transferred to Argentina, where she worked in the Buenos Aires book center and at the same time prepared to make her final vows. In 1963, Maestra Thecla asked her to go to Lima, Peru because the Archbishop of the diocese had asked for a sister to manage the periodical, *Actualidad*, the only Catholic newspaper in the country. Looking back on her time in Peru, Sr. Giannina said: "When I began managing the newspaper, there were many problems. We had to increase the printing runs so as to cover the paper's many debts. I helped out in the typography, as well as with advertising and distribution, trying all the while to avoid unnecessary expenses."

In 1967, Sr. Giannina returned to Mexico City, where she worked in the book center and also in the record apostolate. She was made the superior our Puebla community and was appointed by the Archbishop to the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis. When her term as local superior ended, Sr. Giannina was assigned to the community of Ciudad Juarez. In 1977, she took courses at CELAM'S Pastoral Theological Institute Medellin, Colombia, and received a degree in this field. Afterward, she returned to Puebla, Mexico, where she worked in various Archdiocesan offices.

In 1980, Sr. Giannina returned to Italy permanently but Latin America and its peoples remained deeply rooted in her heart. Over the years, she often said that she would willingly return to the countries to which she had dedicated the fervor of her youth.

After a short time in Rome, Sr. Giannina was sent to Palermo, where she coordinated broadcasts and prepared daily news reports for the diocesan radio station. After 3 years, she was reassigned to Rome to work in our own FSP broadcasting station, *Novaradio Roma*. Her job was primarily to find advertising and sponsors to fund various programs. At the same time she attended the Vatican Archives School and earned a diploma as an archivist, and also served as bursar of the Divine Providence community, Rome. In 1995, Sr. Giannina began 7 years of service in the Information and Documentation Office of the Secretary of State. In 2002, she was assigned to the FSP Provincialate in Rome to reorganize and computerize the archives of our Italian Province.

In 2008, it was discovered that Sr. Giannina was suffering from bone marrow cancer and she was obliged to undergo prolonged therapies and blood transfusions to treat the disease. During the last stage of her illness, her physical decline was very rapid. Yesterday, her condition took a sudden turn for the worse, leading to her meeting with our merciful Father. We are sure that she is now rejoicing in his loving presence as she contemplates the stupendous works of his hands.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 13 December 2012