

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 10:00 p.m. tonight, the vigil of the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Lord visited our Motherhouse in Alba, Italy to call to eternal profession our sister:

BERRUTI MARIA – SR. MARIA URBANA
born in Montabone (Asti), Italy on 23 February 1915.

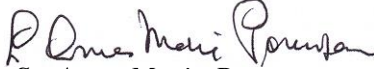
Sr. M. Urbana “passed to the other shore” rich in days and merits. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 23 Jan. 1936. It was the heroic period of our beginnings, in which the new and unique charism of the Daughters of St. Paul was exploding by means of the opening of many houses and door-to-door propaganda. After a few months of formation, Sr. M. Urbana was sent to Trieste to carry out capillary diffusion—a challenge she was able to meet *through the grace of her vocation*. It was not easy to carry out the Pauline mission in a city made up on many different cultures and religions. As chronicles of the times report: “It often happened that in a 4 or 5-story apartment building, only one person would welcome us. Many doors would slam shut in our faces once the occupants had seen us. But we would slip a copy of the parish bulletin under their door and then continue on our way, reciting the rosary either together or individually. We tried to say many ejaculations and to encourage each other by reflecting on the meditation of the day and making a good examination of conscience.”

In 1938, Sr. M. Urbana was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 10 Feb. 1939. After a short time in Florence, she was transferred to Grosseto. She spent more than 20 years in this city, carrying out the book center and propaganda apostolates and also the service of local superior. During World War II, she and the other members of her community had to flee from Grosseto, which was heavily bombed, to the little town of Arcidosso at the foot of Mt. Amiata. But even that small town was not spared. One evening, the sisters suddenly heard the drone of war planes overhead and the sound of bombs exploding all around them. At that hour, they should have been en route to the parish church to participate in Eucharistic benediction, but divine Providence delayed their departure so that they were not on the street at that moment and thus were not killed. When the bombs stopped falling, the sisters took refuge in the woods, where they spent many days assisting the wounded. Finding food was a problem but they were able to satisfy their hunger with what they could find in abandoned farmhouses. Since the part of the town where our sisters had been living was completely destroyed by the bombs, they found hospitality at Our Lady of Grace Sanctuary. From there, they continued the propaganda apostolate, returning to Grosseto from time to time to restock their book supply because even that difficult situation could not curb the apostolic zeal of those young apostles.

In 1960, Sr. M. Urbana was appointed superior of our Nuoro community. Afterward, she carried out the same service in Sassari, Belluno and then once again in Grosseto. In 1971, she was assigned to Rimini for a short time and from there to Albano, Verona and Bologna successively. In 1975 she was once again appointed superior of Nuoro, after which she served as bursar of the Cagliari community.

In 1988, Sr. M. Urbana was transferred to Alba, where she remained up until her death, irradiating serenity, goodness and kindness to everyone with whom she came in contact. At first, she worked in the bindery and then, as her strength ebbed, she dedicated all her time to making rosaries. It is impossible estimate how many *Hail Marys* she must have said as she carried out this apostolate. Sr. M. Urbana’s life, from beginning to end, was a continual prayer, offered in humble and silent love to God. Her call to heaven was unexpected—the result of a stroke she suffered several days ago that left her bedridden. At the age of 98, Sr. M. Urbana could have well exclaimed with St. Paul: “I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; all that remains for me now is to receive the crown that the Lord will give me on that day.” We place our dear sister in the arms of the Divine Master, asking her to continue her prayers of intercession for the needs of the Church and world, as well as for all our sisters who in these days are launching out on the Pauline journey with great hope and enthusiasm.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 28 June 2013