

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 11:30 this morning, one of our sisters in the Queen of Apostles community of Albano, Italy fell asleep in the Lord:

**BERTOLUSSO TERESA – SR. RENATA INNOCENZA**  
**born in Sommariva Perno (Cuneo), Italy on 12 October 1917.**

Sr. Renata Innocenza entered the Congregation in Alba on 29 Nov. 1930 at the age of 13. She had gone to the Motherhouse to make a retreat and when it was over she decided to remain with the sisters. A few years ago, she wrote: “I was fascinated by the Pauline Family and I said *yes*. Seventy-four years have gone by and I have never regretted my choice. I always felt comfortable with the superiors and sisters with whom I lived. I am happy with my life.”

These simple words summarize the life of this dear sister: her goodness, generosity and deep desire to surrender herself only and always to the will of the Lord. She irradiated peace and serenity and communicated God to others. After several years as a propagandist in Genova, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 10 Feb. 1939. She was still in the capital when World War II broke out and she remained there until 1942. Afterward, she served as a care-giver to the FSPs suffering from tuberculosis who were hospitalized in the TB sanatorium in Limone sul Garda. Following this she returned to capillary diffusion of the Word of God in the dioceses of Ferrara, La Spezia, Tortona, Novara and Chiavari.

From 1951-1974, she worked in the book centers of Grosseto, Benevento, Reggio Emilia and Savona. In those years, in response to a letter of the provincial superior asking the sisters what they wanted in the area of formation and if they had any preferences regarding insertion in the apostolate, she wrote: “On my part, I am happy where I am, doing the apostolate I have been assigned. I am confident that I am in the will of God and I have no other desire.” In fact, Sr. Renata’s sole yearning was to serve her sisters, to love them all without distinction, and to illuminate every situation, even the most difficult, with a radiant smile. Her bio-data reveals that she spent a number of years carrying out various activities in the communities of Alba, Cremona, Reggio Emilia and Alessandria, and that she also assisted our sick sisters in the Via Antonino Pio community of Rome, in the Provincial House and at Rocca di Papa. She willingly performed small services such as giving the sisters massages and physical therapy to ease their pains. For herself, she asked nothing, content with what the Lord saw fit to give her day by day. On her Golden Jubilee, she wrote: “I thoroughly enjoyed the celebration, which moved me deeply. It was one of the most significant days of my life. At the Offertory, I once again offered the Lord the gift of my good will, my desire to please him in everything, my daily efforts in the apostolate (even though my contribution is very small), my continual praise and thanks to him for all he has done for me over these many years, and finally whatever time is left to me, together with all the joys and sufferings that go hand-in-hand with one’s senior years.”

With the heart of a missionary, Sr. Renata constantly sought offerings to subsidize the diffusion of the Gospel in needy parts of the world. The thought of the masses of people thirsting for the truth made it easy for her to hold out her hand to potential benefactors. Now that she dwells with the Father, we know that she will continue to be a “missionary of the Gospel” alongside the many sisters and brothers of the Pauline Family in heaven, including her sister, Sr. M. Amalia, pd, who died several years ago.

It is beautiful to think that on this 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sr. Renata was called to new life through the “door” of mercy that our heavenly Father throws wide to those who are small and humble of heart.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Anna Maria Parenzan'.

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
Vicar General

Rome, 22 August 2010