

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

Last night, one of the sisters in the infirmary wing of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy fell asleep in the arms of the Lord:

BIANCIOTTO PAOLO – SR. COSTANZA
born in Frossasco (Turin), Italy on 22 November 1918.

The life of this dear sister was a marvel of grace, love for the Pauline vocation, and enthusiasm in spreading good. She entered the Congregation in Alba on 24 Jan. 1933 at the age of 14, fired by a great desire to dedicate herself to God. After several years in the Motherhouse and Ancona, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 10 Feb. 1939. As a young professed, Sr. Costanza carried out the diffusion apostolate in Campobasso and Fiume. While she was in Fiume, she was informed that she had received her passport and visa for Spain. On 25 August 1946, she, Sr. Fedele Milani and Sr. Candida Perrone opened our first community in this country in the city of Barcelona. Sr. Costanza recounted how they spent their first night there in an underground room filled with mice and fleas. After a number of years in Barcelona and Valencia, Sr. Costanza was sent to Porto, Portugal to share the adventures and sacrifices of our sisters who had made our first FSP foundation there. In 1956, she and Sr. Paola Macalli opened a community in Lisbon. The people of Spain and Portugal always remained in Sr. Costanza's heart and she prayed and offered many sacrifices for them up to the last day of her life.

In 1979, Sr. Costanza returned to Italy. In the community of Alba, she continued to spread her smile, love for the Pauline charism and enthusiasm for our mission. She prayed without ceasing for the vocations of the whole Pauline Family, especially its lay members. Although she missed her life in the missions, she was serene because she was confident that the Lord was guiding her every step. She wrote: "After thirty years as a pilgrim of God in different parts of the world, it is not easy to adapt to this big community. But thank God I am well and I am trying to live serenely and optimistically. Rotations are necessary because they favor detachment: our securities collapse and we cling to God alone."

In 1992, upon returning to Italy after a visit to Spain and Portugal, where she had sowed the seeds of the Pauline charism with so much joy, Sr. Costanza wrote with gratitude: "How great the Lord is and what marvels he is able to do when we surrender ourselves to him and walk hand-in-hand with him! He used humble beginnings and insignificant messengers to work wonders! Today our diffusion centers are beautiful cathedrals that draw many people in search of light, warmth, comfort and hope."

In her spiritual testament, written in 1991, she recorded the phrases that had sustained her throughout the years: "Look to him and you will be radiant." "The Lord is my Shepherd. I lack nothing." "He points out to me the path to life and complete joy in his presence." She confided that these thoughts had filled her with great joy during her years as a missionary overseas. Deeply grateful to the Lord for every experience and for the gift of every sister in her life, she wrote: "I want to thank the Lord and the Congregation for the opportunity to carry out the Pauline mission in different parts of the world. The experience enriched my life and made it universal. Above all, I want to thank him for the Pauline spirituality, which prods us on to always greater heights. There is always something to do, something new to learn, to live and to witness to. I thank the Lord for my Family. I offer my life for the grace of many Pauline vocations in every part of the world so that the Word of God, through the powerful instruments of social communication, will reach everyone." Sr. Costanza prayed for vocations throughout her life and we are sure she will continue to beg the Lord for this gift for our whole Family now that she sees the Father face to face.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General Rome,

30 March 2010