

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 4:30 this afternoon, God the Father visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community in Rome, Italy to call to himself our sister:

BIGNOLI LUCIA – SR. CORNELIA
born in Garbagna (Novara), Italy on 13 December 1919.

Sr. Cornelia entered the Congregation in Alba on 1 April 1930. Because she was only 11 at the time, she was inserted among the *Immacolatine*, the youngest members of the community. These girls courageously shared the many sacrifices linked to the beginnings of our Institute and also helped move the Alba community from Piazza S. Paolo to Borgo Piave in 1933. Lucia learned to love the Pauline vocation from Fr. Alberione and Maestra Thecla, both of whom strongly emphasized our Congregation's teaching ministry. After having mastered the art of typography and spent a period of time carrying out the propaganda apostolate in the diocese of Grosseto, Lucia was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 10 Feb. 1939.

A very intelligent person, Sr. Cornelia was given the chance to pursue higher studies and in 1942 earned a teacher's diploma. Afterward, she took courses in philosophy and theology within the Congregation, saying that these were very intensive and rich years for her. She became an expert teacher in the fields of Liturgy, the social doctrine of the Church, Latin and English. For more than 20 years, she enthusiastically taught the young members of the Institute in Rome and Alba, helping many of them prepare for the State examinations necessary to receive various academic degrees. But within the Congregation, Sr. Cornelia was known especially for her ability as a music teacher. After earning a degree in Sacred Music in 1958, she taught Gregorian chant in a small music conservatory in Rome under the protection of Pope Pius XII. She was a very exacting teacher because she wanted religious music to be performed in the best way possible so that it would truly be transformed into prayer.

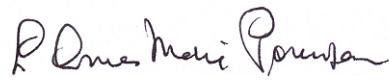
Sr. Cornelia dedicated many years of her life to the writing apostolate, especially as a translator and the editor of a series of books on papal teachings: *The Acts and Speeches of Pius XII* (20 volumes); *The Encyclicals and Speeches of Pope John XXIII* (5 volumes); *The Talks of Cardinal Roncalli in Venice* (4 volumes), and a series on the Popes entitled *Shepherds and Guides*. In 1953, she supervised the translation of a selection of the *Letters of St. Bernard of Clairvaux* from Latin to Italian. And for a number of years she made an important contribution to the *Famiglia Cristiana* and *Pauline Cooperator* magazines, as well as to other periodicals, through articles and book reviews.

When these editorial responsibilities were entrusted to others, Sr. Cornelia was asked to distribute the mail in the large Via Antonino Pio community in Rome. She enjoyed this work very much because it kept her in contact with the sisters and the different apostolic departments.

Everyone who knew Sr. Cornelia remembers her as a cheerful, sociable, simple and strong-willed sister, who carried out a variety of community services with great love. She spent the last ten years of her life in the community infirmary, where she accepted her failing health without complaint and with great gratitude for everything done for her. Advancing age, the onset of Parkinson's disease and the loss of lucidity did not prevent her from continuing to pray and offer her sufferings for the needs of the Congregation and the Pauline Family, and from following the activities of her friend Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, ex-President of Italy, who died just a few months ago.

In her own passage to eternity, Sr. Cornelia was lovingly accompanied by many sisters, who gathered in prayer around her bedside and sang Gregorian chant, giving her a foretaste of the music of the angels that she would soon be enjoying. We are sure that our sister appeared before the heavenly Father singing the Alleluia of the saved.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General