



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

At about 8:30 p.m. today, God the Father visited the infirmary wing of our Divine Providence community in Alba, Italy, to call to eternal life our sister,

BONAZZA PIERINA – SR. M. FEDERICA
born in San Floriano di San Biagio (Treviso), Italy, on 3 March 1926.

Sr. M. Federica had been living in the Alba infirmary wing for about 4 years after dedicating her Pauline life to spreading the Gospel and working for the good of her community day after day. In 1969, in response to a letter of her provincial superior asking the sisters if they wanted to take any updating courses or pursue higher studies, she wrote: “I have no particular desires regarding your proposal. Please feel free to use me for the good of the Congregation and the glory of God. I am at your disposition.”

The life of this dear sister was a gift to the Church and to the Pauline Family. She entered the Congregation in Alba on 11 May 1946. After working in the Alba typography and carrying out the propaganda apostolate in the diocese of Trent, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1949. As a young professed she worked in the Reggio Calabria and then in the Reggio Emilia book centers for a combined total of 17 years. In 1969, she was appointed superior of the Perugia community, after which she returned to the book center apostolate, this time in Cagliari.

Sr. M. Federica served as community bursar in Verona for 4 years, followed by a return to book center work in the cities of Genoa, Trent, Cremona, Sulmona and Cagliari, successively. From the Founder, she had learned to consider the book center a temple, a church, a place from which to proclaim the Gospel on a daily basis. She firmly believed that the book center was “a center of light and warmth in Jesus Christ,” “a point of contact between the Congregation and the people,” the well-spring of all the initiatives of the Pauline apostolate. She saw it as the pulpit from which she could offer people the books that would help them grow and become more convinced and authentic Christians.

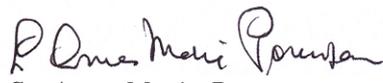
With sorrow but also profound faith, she accepted the progressive decline of her health due to severe osteoporosis. When the advance of this made it necessary for her to withdraw from the direct apostolate, she dedicated all her energies to serving her sisters with joy through her work in the kitchen, laundry and other housekeeping duties in the Cagliari and Bologna communities. While she was in Bologna, she wrote: “I am trying to respond day by day to the Lord’s love for me by giving the best of myself to my work in the kitchen. When I feel lonely, I cling more firmly to the Blessed Mother’s hand and, in the depths of my heart, try to serenely welcome everything that happens to me.”

In 2005, Sr. M. Federica’s deteriorating health made it necessary to transfer her to Livorno and from there to the Motherhouse in Alba in 2008.

While in Livorno, she wrote: “I’m not able to carry out the many activities and services I formerly did because my shoulder and arm muscles are crippled, the bone of my right leg is out of place, my knees are giving me problems, etc. But I am content, in spite of the fact that my body is disintegrating, and I continue to do what I can. This is a very meaningful time for me. I ask the Lord to dwell in me always more fully and unite me to his Passion. I offer my life for vocations, for the Congregation, for priests. I feel that the Lord is asking me to make this self-offering quietly, with love and humility.”

Sr. M. Federica spent the last years of her life first in a wheelchair and then bedridden as the result of a stroke. But her mind was alert to the very end and she disseminated love and kindness to everyone around her with her serene gaze. And today the Lord, who had watched over her all her life, called her to himself to give her a new name—the name of the saved.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 4 January 2013