



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

At 9:45 p.m. today, the ante-vigil of Christmas, the Lord visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to gently call to himself our sister:

BOVIO RITA – SR. MARIA LIVIA
born in Bellinzago Novarese, Italy on 24 January 1938.

Sr. M. Livia entered the Congregation in Alba on 17 August 1950, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. Delia, and blazing the trail for her younger sister, Sr. Celina, who would enter the Institute 4 years later. Sr. Livia was only twelve at the time of her entrance but she was already motivated by a profound desire to dedicate herself to God completely through the Pauline mission. Because of her youth, she spent a number of years as an aspirant and postulant. This stage of her formation took place in Alba, where she worked in the typography and continued her intermediate and high school education in the Institute. In 1957 she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1958. As a young professed, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in Gorizia and Verona, after which she was transferred to Rome to work for subscriptions to *Così*, an FSP magazine for young women.

After her perpetual profession, made in Rome in 1963, Sr. Livia worked in many of our Italian book centers—the “pulpits” from which she proclaimed the Gospel. Her competence, humility and serenity in carrying out this apostolate was warmly appreciated by her co-workers and the people of Gorizia, Verona, La Spezia, Mestre, Novara, Reggio Calabria, Naples/Capodimonte and Lodi. She also served as local superior of the communities of Rovigo, Pordenone and Aosta.

In 1958, the year of her profession, Fr. Alberione reminded the FSPs of the holiness of the Pauline mission, repeatedly underscoring the need to consider our book centers to be “centers that radiate the light of the truth, the light of the moral life and the light of the Church.”

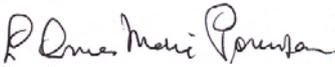
Profoundly convinced of this, Sr. M. Livia carried out the Pauline apostolate with professional skill, missionary zeal, joy, a spirit of faith and a deep love for all the people who visited our book centers.

About three years ago, while she was stationed in the Capodimonte community of Naples, Sr. Livia’s health began to decline due to Parkinson’s disease, which led to the gradual stiffening of her limbs. Because of this, she was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano, where she embarked on a long calvary as her body progressively rigidified. First she lost the use of her hands and then her legs, which confined her to a wheelchair. Afterward, her vocal chords stiffened, causing her to lose her speech. Finally, the illness engulfed the vital organs of her body.

Unable to move even a finger, unable to speak, and for the past month unable to eat, Sr. Livia lived the last stage of her life in silence and self-surrender into the hands of God the Father, intimately united to the passion of the Lord, who purified her, refining her life like gold and silver, so that it rose to him like a fragrant perfume.

Today’s Liturgy casts light on the last moments of this dear sister: like Elizabeth, the time had come for her too to “give birth” by bringing to light to all the great things the Lord had done in her. Tonight, after months of silence, Sr. Livia’s tongue was freed, enabling her to joyfully respond to the invitation to raise her head and praise God for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 23 December 2014