

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

At 9.00 p.m. on this fifth Sunday of Easter, at the San Raffaele wing of the community of Albano, Italy, the risen Lord called to himself our sister

CAPELLO ELISABETTA Sr MARIA ELISABETTA
born in Turin, Italy on April 16, 1930.

Sr. Elisabetta was a joyful, communicative sister who gave to the Congregation her many gifts of nature and grace. She described herself in this way: "I am a happy Daughter of St. Paul: the Lord has done great things in my life, even among many limits. I have always felt as addressed to me his words: 'From your mother's womb I have loved you, you are mine.... I have engraved you on the palm of my hand....'"

She entered the Congregation in Alba, on September 21, 1949, after finishing high school which included Greek and Latin. Her excellent cultural preparation was immediately put to good use to teach those in initial formation. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with first profession on March 19, 1952.

She then dedicated herself to theology studies. Her truly versatile personality allowed her to carry out the most varied responsibilities. In June 1957, she left for Australia as a missionary where she quickly became superior of the Sydney community. On 6 February 1961, together with three other Filipino sisters, she opened the house of Dontozidon, a satellite town of Jesselton (today Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia).

After a few months, she returned to Rome where, in the Apostolic Center, under the guidance of Sr. Assunta Bassi, numerous initiatives of biblical and catechetical animation were under way. In 1969, she had the great joy of going to Kampala, Uganda to help the sisters prepare for the historic visit of Pope Paul VI. With a heart filled with enthusiasm, she then carried out editorial work in Rome, oriented especially to the care of the Patristic series and the publication of papal documents. In 1971, she went for a few months to Mumbai, India. For a period of three years, she was a councilor of the Milan province, which at the time was located at Via Mancini. In 1975, she returned to Rome, to the community of Via Flaminio Ponzio, to continue editorial work. These were the years in which the editorial sector in Italy did not have its own offices but moved between different houses. And so Sr. Elisabetta was transferred to Alba, and then in 1982, to the new community of Via P. Uccello (Milan), seat of the Editorial Center.

In 1985 she was called to the Generalate to be inserted in the Secretariat of Spirituality, but from there to the various areas that obedience entrusted to her: from teaching groups in formation to the animation of pilgrimages to the places of our origins, from which experience she wrote the guide, "In the Footsteps of Our Saints." She willingly volunteered herself to accompany the sisters on their visits to the Vatican Museums or to other places in the Eternal City. But above all, she was an incomparable proofreader and delighted in looking for and finding errors.... Many volumes of the Opera Omnia Alberioniana passed through her hands, with her not only correcting but assimilating, "eating" so as to nourish her spirit and become a fervent communicator.

In the year 2008, she was transferred to the San Raffaele wing of the Albano community, where she gave witness to much love and much capacity for suffering and self-offering, in union with her Lord and Master. We cannot forget that because of the serious illness that had struck her, one leg had to be amputated. And we cannot forget the affectionate closeness of her "little" brother, Father Giovanni, Oblate of the Virgin Mary, who died last year.

Through one of her writings Sr. Elisabetta seemed to want to leave to us the things most dear to her: "*Pauline spirituality* is fundamental.... The invitation of Primo Maestro to "christify" us, to become Paulines, to be chaste. Then the *mission*: a stupendous apostolate. I felt fulfilled and happy in the missionary apostolate: Australia, the Philippines, India, Africa...; in the apostolate in Italy through propaganda and then for many years in editorial work (patristics) and in proofreading.... Now I am here in Albano in the San Raffaele wing, in the last phase of my life. With joy and in peace, I exercise the dual apostolate so dear to Primo Maestro: *the apostolate of prayer and of suffering*. All that I have received and receive in the marvelous Pauline Family is precious for me in walking joyfully to my encounter with the Bridegroom."

We thank Sr. Elisabetta for her great desire to live of Jesus and to cry out to everyone the joy of having met him. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 29 April 2018