

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

At 6:00 this morning, the Divine Master visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy to call to the joy of his kingdom our sister:

CARANDINA MARIA – SR. MARIA ADELAIDE
born in Trecenta (Rovigo), Italy on 24 October 1921.

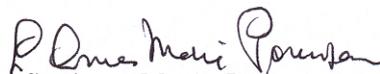
Sr. M. Adelaide entered the Congregation in Alba on 3 August 1941. She spent the war years in the Motherhouse, where she carried out various services. She also made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 29 June 1946. Several months later, she was sent as a missionary to Lyon, France, where she carried out capillary propaganda for about 6 years in a particularly difficult context. In April 1952 she was assigned to Montreal, Canada, where the Congregation had opened a community just 2 months previously. Sr. M. Adelaide immediately began the propaganda apostolate, organizing visits to the families and parishes with a great sense of responsibility. When the cinema apostolate was launched in 1954, she was placed in charge of the St. Paul Film Agency in Montreal. On 23 August 1956, she was asked to take another step in faith: to go to Toronto along with 4 others sisters to open a community and carry out the service of superior for a time. In 1958, Sr. M. Adelaide returned to Italy. With her habitual amiability and spirit of availability, she worked in the administration office, the shipping department and at the reception desk of the Divine Master community in Via Antonino Pio, Rome. Afterward, she was transferred to Reggio Emilia where she worked for about 6 years in the book center. Returning to the Divine Master community of Rome, she carried out the service of hospitality there. In 1992 she was assigned to the Ferrara book center so that she could be close to her mother. After she died, Sr. M. Adelaide was transferred to the James Alberione community of Albano, where she could live her senior years serenely.

To all appearances, the life of this dear sister was very simple and “normal.” But in reality her heart was filled with intuitions concerning the mystery of God and the mystery of the Church, which she discussed with the priests who guided her. She also left behind an abundance of writings witnessing to her spiritual life. On 16 Jan. 1993, she wrote from Ferrara: “May my hidden life serve to make Him shine! May His redemption reach all humanity and transform it into a fraternity.” Sr. M. Adelaide felt called to remain humble and hidden in the Trinity, profoundly and integrally living the mystical dimension of the Pauline spirituality “so as to enable everything to powerfully converge in unity on the whole Christ.” She loved to contemplate the Church as the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, feeling deeply united to him, “who continues to live with us and for us, in self-offering to the Father.” She prayed: “Father, help us feel joyful, grateful and enthusiastic to belong to your Church.... I can’t pray to you in an isolated way, Blessed Trinity, because I feel—and know myself to be—one among many.”

Looking ahead to her death, she wrote in 1983: “I beg you to come and take me, Jesus. And when that happens, may everyone rejoice in the knowledge that I have gone to be with the Blessed Trinity. Stay close to me, Jesus, with your mother and mine, the Queen of Apostles. May I enter heaven right away with you at my side, my God, whom I love with all my heart, so as to praise and glorify you with the whole heavenly choir.” On another occasion, she wrote to the Superior General: “My greatest joy is to have spent my life in our Congregation. How much I thank the Divine Master for the charism he bestowed on our dear Founder!”

May they all be one: this plea of Jesus in his priestly prayer sums up the overriding desire of Sr. M. Adelaide’s life. She yearned for unity in the Church and also in the Pauline Family. Now that she is rejoicing in the presence of the Lord, fully united to him, let us ask our sister to intercede for us, begging God to grant us the gift of unity for which she offered her life.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 2 June 2011