

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

At 1:00 a.m. last night, the Divine Master, our Resurrection and Life, visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy, to lead to the house of the Father our sister:

**CARDUCCI AUGUSTA – SR. M. REGINA
born in Tornimparte (Aquila), Italy on 7 July 1934.**

Sr. M. Regina entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 7 Oct. 1953 after finishing high school. Reminiscing about her sister, Sr. Assunta, who died several years ago, Sr. M. Regina wrote, “We were a religious family, made up of Dad, Mom, and 6 children (5 girls and a boy). We loved one another very much and were closely united among ourselves. I entered the Congregation 6 years after Sr. Assunta. When I told her that I too wanted to become a Daughter of St. Paul, she replied that she didn’t think I was suited to the religious life. In fact I was a ‘free spirit’—probably the least religious of all the members of my family.”

Sr. M. Regina was always known for her deep attachment to her superiors. As an aspirant, she worked in the office of the FSP Apostolic Center, while at the same time taking philosophy classes within the Congregation. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1957. Afterward, she was assigned to first the Avellino and then the Salerno book centers. In 1966, she was transferred to Albano, where she studied nursing. In 1969 she obtained a degree in this field, with a specialization in blood analysis.

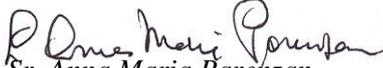
In 1972, Sr. M. Regina returned to the diffusion apostolate in the Ancona book center, after which she was appointed superior of the San Benedetto del Tronto community. In 1978 she returned to Albano, which was in a difficult situation and needed the collaboration of FSPs with nursing skills. With a great spirit of availability, she accepted an assignment to the blood analysis department and rapidly became known for the kindness, precision and professional way in which she carried out her work. But in her heart, she yearned to be sent to the missions—a desire that was satisfied in 1987, when the Superior General asked her if she would be willing to go to the Congo as a missionary.

With true Pauline zeal, Sr. M. Regina willingly embraced a completely new situation, which she quickly learned to love. She lived through dramatic moments in both Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, due to the fact that the civil war in neighboring Rwanda was having serious repercussions in the Congo. In 1991, she wrote to the Superior General: “After my experiences in Kinshasa, I am now in Lubumbashi. Thirty-six hours after my arrival, the end of the world exploded here too. Life is harder here than it was in Kinshasa. But the Lord has been faithful to his promise, “Do not be afraid; from here I want to cast light.’ He has been with us in every sense of the word.” Together with the rest of the community, she lived the turbulent days in which invading soldiers ransacked the city. The sisters’ only weapon was prayer, which obtained for them the grace of emerging unscathed from the hands of the guerrilla fighters. A few days later, the little group was able to escape from Lubumbashi and take refuge in Zambia. It was a time filled with danger but the unstable situation did not diminish in the least the heroic apostolic zeal of our Congolese sisters.

In Lubumbashi, Sr. M. Regina carried out the role of community bursar and served as local superior for two terms. In 2009 she was appointed superior of the formation community of Kinshasa but at that point her strength was steadily declining. She returned to Italy definitively in 2011, after 25 years of missionary life, and was assigned to the James Alberione community of Albano, which was very grateful for her nursing expertise, especially in the distribution of medication to the sisters. The last years of Sr. M. Regina’s life were not easy for her but she accompanied her sufferings with the generous offering of herself to the Lord for the needs of the Congolese people. A few months ago, she fell and broke her hip, aggravating her already precarious state of health. A second fall a few days ago proved to be fatal because her weakened system could not sustain the trauma.

We entrust to Sr. M. Regina our Delegation of the Congo, above all our young African vocations, whom she deeply loved and who loved her very much in return.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parehzan
Superior General

Rome, 18 March 2015