



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

At 10:00 this morning, one of the members of our Divine Providence community, Rome, Italy, gently fell asleep in the Lord:

CARMINATI GIUSEPPINA – SR. ELISABETTA
born in Graffignana (Lodi), Italy on 13 May 1930.

Sr. Elisabetta had been living in the infirmary wing of the DP community for about 7 years, after it was discovered that she was suffering from a macular degeneration that gradually worsened her eyesight to the point that she became blind. About three years ago, she suffered a heart attack but continued to live serenely, even cheerfully, raising the spirits of the sisters with the songs of her youth and reciting the poems she had learned as a child. In fact, she had the heart of a child, which led her to dream, to dialogue with others, and to feel that the sisters and other loved ones who had preceded her to heaven were still present alongside her. A few days ago, she told the Juniors preparing to make their perpetual vows that she was truly happy to be a Daughter of St. Paul. And in reality her Pauline life was marked by joy, enthusiasm and vibrant passion for the apostolate.

Sr. Elisabetta entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 18 Oct. 1947, preceded by her sister Sr. Franca and five other young women who, in clusters, followed her example, drawn by her joyous witness of life.

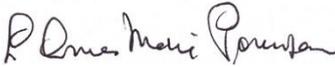
Sr. Elisabetta made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. She then received the gift of being able to attend courses in philosophy, theology and cinematography held in the Congregation. All of this prepared her for a fervent launch into the apostolate, especially in the areas of biblical, catechetical and Marian missions, which, at the request of bishops and parish priests, preceded, accompanied and followed Vatican Council II. These Pauline missions made wide use not only of book displays and oral preaching, but also of the catechetical filmstrips and various religious films available. Sr. Elisabetta became a specialist in preparing book exhibits, for which she had a rare ability to involve all categories of people, especially sisters of other Institutes. Her requests for help and collaboration certainly had a pedagogical function, augmented by her communicative ability and great openness of heart, inherited from mother Erminia. In fact, her insistence and motivational skills were so persuasive that it was impossible to say “no” to her. For the Pauline apostolate, this was a splendid period—a time of grace and fruitfulness characterized by particular creativity.

Sr. Elisabetta spent a few years at Albano undergoing treatment for a serious illness and afterward resumed her travels along the roads of Italy, stimulating the Pauline communities in which she lived (Cagliari, La Spezia, Benevento, Mantua, Biella, Milan and Savona) to savor the beauty of communion. All these houses benefitted from her apostolic zeal and above all her skill at establishing warm relations with everyone, disseminating peace and love for the Pauline mission wherever she went. In Cagliari, she also carried out the service of local superior for 3 years.

In 1999, Sr. Elisabetta was transferred to Rome, first to the Divine Master community and then to the Divine Providence community in the Via Antonino Pio complex. From there she commuted to the book center managed by the FSPs at the Three Fountains Abbey, near the site where the Apostle Paul was martyred. She had created a vast network of friends and apostolic relationships with prominent figures in the world of culture and the arts. Her very sincere and spontaneous love for everyone was reciprocated by all and fostered the Congregation’s apostolic development. Even when she was barely able to see, Sr. Elisabetta’s missionary zeal remained the beacon that guided and directed her life.

The Lord called her suddenly and peacefully in what had been her room for the past several years. This morning she found it harder than usual to get up and when her caregiver tried to help her, a heart attack precipitated her passage to eternity. We like to think that when Sr. Elisabetta appeared before God, our good Father, she offered him the most beautiful of poems—the poem of her life—expressed in the moving terms of a love song.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 21 February 2020