

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

At 9:40 this morning, the Divine Spouse visited Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to call to eternal intimacy with himself our sister:

CASULA GRAZIETTA – SR. MARIA NICOLINA
born in Sant’Andrea Frius (Cagliari), Italy on 18 December 1927.

Sr. M. Nicolina entered the Congregation in the community of Nuoro on 10 Oct. 1945. She made her novitiate in Grottaferrata, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1949 in Rome. Immediately afterward, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency in Palermo, which had just opened. But the Lord then surprised her with a call to the missions. In 1952, M. Thecla sent her to the United States. Sr. Nicolina said she left Italy in the midst of a severe thunderstorm and that the torrential downpour all around her matched the downpour in her heart because she was leaving her beloved homeland. In Boston, U.S.A., she carried out propaganda to families, offices and collectivities. It was a difficult time for her because although the American people were very generous to the sisters the demands and fatigue of the propaganda apostolate were a strain on her health. In 1959 she was appointed superior of the Buffalo community and after her term of office ended she returned to Italy for a few years. But in 1963 she was sent back to the United States, where she served as superior first of the Alexandria (Louisiana) community and then that of Miami (Florida). Following this, she worked in the Cleveland, Boston and Staten Island book centers. These were not easy years for Sr. Nicolina. On the 40th anniversary of her departure for the United States, she wrote: “When I reached New York, it was raining once again. In fact, I spent the next 27 years alternating between rain and sun. Sufferings were never lacking but I thank the Lord my years in America.”

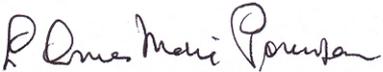
In 1979, Sr. Nicolina returned to Italy due to poor health and was inserted into the Albano community. For more than 20 years (up to 2002) she worked at the hospital reception desk, and both patients and hospital staff came to know her very well. The hospital’s reception area was a gathering point for people, who felt free to request information and ask all sorts of questions. When Sr. Nicolina was on duty at the reception desk, no one left her window without a word of encouragement and faith. As the hospital expanded, reception duties became heavier but in 1992 Sr. Nicolina renewed her availability to the Superior General, saying: “My health is not very good but I am ready to continue my work here....”

Besides making a valuable contribution to this sector, Sr. Nicolina also participated lovingly and discreetly in the life of our FSP Albano community. The sisters who lived with her say she was very interested in what was going on in the Congregation and was always eager to hear about the visits of the General Government overseas. She wanted to know what was happening so as to keep our sisters and their apostolic activities in her prayers and self-offering. Memories of her years in the United States were very dear to her and she continued to correspond with many of the sisters there, asking where different people were now stationed and what apostolic initiatives were being carried out in the province.

In 2002, Sr. Nicolina was asked to work in the hospital’s laundry room and wardrobe area—a service she generously carried out for as long as her strength permitted. She spent the last few years of her life in the San Raffaele (infirmary) wing of the community, where she could receive the assistance her deteriorating physical condition required. She could often be found walking in the hallways, a smile on her face in spite of her labored breathing due to lung problems. On her 60th anniversary of religious profession, she expressed her thanks for the joys and sufferings she had experienced in life, writing: “I have always been happy in the Pauline life and I thank the Lord for having called me to be a member of the great Pauline Family.”

Now Sr. Nicolina has joined the great Pauline Family in heaven, where she can wholeheartedly proclaim the marvels the Lord worked in her life and in the lives of all those who met him through her.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 2 September 2011