



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

Another sister has been summoned to the House of the Father. In a sudden manner, just after 1pm, in our Thecla Merlo community, the Lord called to himself our sister,

CATILLO MARIA Sr MARIA AURORA
Born in Foglianise (Benevento) on November 12, 1926

A small slip of paper, handwritten in April 2007, reveals to us the final desires of Sr. Aurora: «The Lord is concluding my earthly pilgrimage in his mercy. I thank the good God who has sustained me: I have tangibly felt his presence in difficult moments. I thank all the sisters and the people whom I have met along my journey for the goodness they have shown me. To everyone, until we see each other again in heaven with Jesus. »

Sr. Aurora entered into life that has no end, in a sudden manner. She had participated at Mass this morning with the sisters in her community and certainly could not have imagined that this would be her last liturgy on earth. But she had been waiting for this moment and had been preparing with great fidelity and delicacy of soul, embracing without complaint and with perseverance, all the inconveniences of age and illness.

She entered the Congregation in the house of Avellino, on October 14, 1940, at the age of 14. While waiting to grow up, she dedicated herself to the technical apostolate in the bindery in Rome and was later transferred to Modena to carry out capillary diffusion in the families and collectivities. She lived her novitiate in Rome and it concluded with her first profession on June 30th 1946. She returned to Avellino and then went on to Salerno where she made a valuable contribution to the development of the Marian days, Gospel displays, and Bible weeks. It was precisely in those years that her dear father passed away and she had the consolation to receive a note from Prima Maestra Tecla in which she wrote, «I think of your pain and that of all your loved ones. I keep you close in my thoughts and I pray for your dear deceased and for all the family....Courage! One day we will see our loved ones in heaven, where we will not be separated again. I understand your sorrow. I too have known it. I was not even able to speak to my father. When I arrived he had already gone to heaven, so I totally understand what you are going through.».

From 1958 to 1960, she carried out the service of doorkeeper in the community of Rome Antonino Pio and then was transferred to Sulmona, where for almost 25 years, she dedicated herself to various forms of apostolate and above all offering an important contribution in the Catechetical Office of the diocese. On the occasion of her request for admittance to perpetual profession, she wrote: «I am ready to give my whole self to the Lord. » And we can affirm that Sr. M. Aurora never took back her promise. Her only desire was to belong totally to the Lord, to leave behind no aspect of her personality that was not totally offered to Him. From 1985 until 2004, she was inserted for shorter or longer periods of time in the communities of Reggio Calabria, Napoli Capodimonte, Grosseto, Sassari: everywhere she dedicated herself to creating a communitarian atmosphere that was always more welcoming, offering to help in the various community services, especially as cook. She was happy to foster in the community, the warm atmosphere of family life, especially for the sisters who returned home tired at night after the intense apostolic activity of the day.

Since July 2004, she had been living in the community of Thecla Merlo in Albano. These were not easy years for Sr. Aurora who underwent various treatments and thyroid surgery which damaged her vocal chords and resulted in the loss of her voice. But we can say that this limitation opened her to greater communication with her Jesus, allowed her to remain for long moments before Him in silent colloquy. She was able to maintain right up to the last day her beautiful lucidity, her interest in every event and especially those of the Congregation and the Church. In particular, she closely followed the papal visits: she offered and suffered for everything, welcoming her declining strength with serenity and in peace.

Today the Lord has ratified his spousal covenant with this dear sister through the mutual gift of one to the other. The Lord will be her God forever and she forever will be to his eyes, a precious and beloved apostle.

With affection,

Sr Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicaria generale

Rome March 25, 2012