

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

At 10:45 last night, the Lord visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy, to call to live in communion with the Trinity, our sister:

CAVALLIN ERMINIA – SR. MARIA FLAVIANA
born in Montebelluna (Treviso), Italy on 18 July 1929.

As I write this letter, my heart echoes with the words of Maestra Thecla to the first FSPs departing for the United States. On that occasion she said: “Leave in the name of the Blessed Trinity, just as we will leave for heaven under this holy name. May the most holy Trinity bless you: the heavenly Father, who created you; the divine Son, who died for you; and the Holy Spirit, who sanctified you....” It is beautiful to attribute these words of blessing to the life of dear Sr. Flaviana, who enriched the communities in which she lived by her life of simplicity, generosity and love.

Her Pauline vocation matured in the midst of her large family, whose members lived in a spirit of profound faith. Following in the footsteps of her two older sisters, Sr. Rosanna and Sr. Theodora, she entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 12 Oct. 1946. She underwent her initial formation and made her novitiate in this community, concluding this stage of her Pauline life with her first profession on 19 March 1949. As a young professed, Sr. Flaviana worked in the technical apostolate of the large Via Antonino Pio community, Rome. Afterward, she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Foggia. Following her perpetual profession in 1954, she returned to the “propaganda” apostolate, this time in Bari and Livorno.

In 1964, Sr. Flaviana was assigned the job of driver and errand-runner in the house of Rome and then, beginning in 1978, was asked to carry out the same service in the Queen of Apostles Hospital and community, due to an urgent need of the Congregation. It was not an easy transfer for her to accept but she embraced it with a spirit of great availability, happy to be useful and to dedicate all her energies to a service that was at times very stressful.

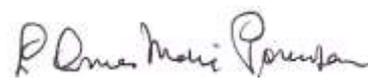
From that time on, Sr. Flaviana served as one of the drivers of our Albano community, but she was a sister who could be asked to take on any job, accepting it readily, even when the passing of time brought with it the inevitable infirmities of advancing age. She was always happy when asked to make the rounds to collect “beneficenza” and she willingly helped out with duties in the community so as to make things easier for its other members. Sr. Flaviana was a very energetic person with a gentle and good smile that grew even more luminous over the years.

About 5 years ago, she began to gradually withdraw from the active apostolate, but she continued to contribute her services in the hospital laundry room and in caring for the community wardrobes. Her health steadily declined due to serious heart problems and in these last weeks two pulmonary edemas (accumulation of fluid in the lungs) weakened her even further. However, her death was caused by a brain malfunction.

On the day of Sr. Flaviana’s perpetual profession, Fr. Alberione addressed words of great hope to her and her companions, saying: “You will remember today when you are at the point of death, because that will be the day you make your final profession. You will remember that during your lifetime you received the hundredfold of grace and you will bless the Lord for this. Then you will make your eternal profession.... When Jesus arrives and says, ‘Come, spouse of Christ,’ you will respond with a generous yes, just as you have responded with a generous yes to the divine vocation you have received.”

Let us entrust to Sr. Flaviana the Juniors who are concluding their course of preparation for perpetual profession and who are returning to their communities in these days are. May she, whose own life was marked by a fidelity that withstood all tests, obtain for these sisters the gift of offering themselves to God joyously, generously and lovingly.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 23 May 2016