

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

In the silence of the night, the Lord visited our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to the splendor of his eternal light our sister:

**CENDRON STELLA – SR. MARIA LUCIA
born in Monigo (Treviso), Italy on 6 March 1924.**

Sr. Lucia was a simple, good, generous and hard-working sister. When she entered the Congregation, her parish priest wrote: “Ever since she was a child, Stella has behaved admirably and as she has gotten older, her goodness has increased.” In fact, she truly lived among us in industrious silence, relating to others seriously and with a quickness in harmony with the advice of our Founder.

She entered the Congregation in the community of Treviso on 13 January 1938 at the age of 14. Perhaps because of her youth, she spent the first stage of her formation in this house, carrying out above all the apostolate of “propaganda” to the families. In 1940, she was sent to Rome to continue her initial formation and then make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1944.

As a young professed, Sr. Lucia continued the propaganda apostolate in the communities of Rome, Cesena and L’Aquila. In 1956, she was sent as a missionary to France and she quickly learned to love her new homeland. In Paris, Arras and Marseilles she dedicated her entire life, day after day, to the cause of the Gospel. The propaganda mission that she and the other sisters carried out was not easy in France and many doors were closed in the faces of these young apostles, who nevertheless climbed endless staircases, fired by great conviction and the determination to reach every family and business.

In 1965, Sr. Lucia was appointed superior of the Marseilles community. At the end of her mandate, she was assigned to the Lyons book center, where she worked for the next 15 years. Afterward, she was asked to carry out the service of local superior in that community for two terms. The sisters who lived with her over the years say that she was a good, kind, sociable, courteous and practical person, who always kept her surroundings clean and neat. They say she was very serviceable and concerned about not causing worry to others. Instead, she made every effort to peacefully resolve any community problems.

In 1996, Sr. Lucia was transferred back to Marseilles, where she carried out various household duties and also the service of errand-runner. In 2009, she returned to Lyons, where her respectful and hardworking nature was a great blessing to the community. With advancing age, Sr. Lucia decided, in keeping with her practical and serious outlook on life, that it would be best for her to return to Italy so as not to be a burden to her Delegation. In December 2013, she wrote to the Superior General: “I have been in France for many years but I think the time has come for me to leave in the hands of others the apostolate here, which has many problems but also many positive points. Therefore I am asking to return to Italy. I’m not saying it won’t be hard for me to do this, but I think it is a reasonable step to take, considering my age. I have experienced an abundance of joys here in France, especially in the apostolate...and also many sufferings. But I have always kept my ideal before me and sought to do everything I could, striving to forgive everyone and everything. I am sure I too caused suffering to others, given my serious and rather severe character, but inside me things are very different. I always pray for the needs of the Congregation, especially for its superiors, who carry heavy responsibilities.”

In April 2014, Sr. Lucia was transferred to the Motherhouse in Alba. She was happy to have more time to pray, to drink at the “wellspring” of our Pauline life and to carry out a variety of small, everyday duties in the community. She tried to be as self-reliant as possible so as not to burden or bother anyone. And the Lord, almost as if to respect her style of life, called her to heaven in the silence of the night—a night he transformed into the light of a brilliant day for her. We join our sisters of France in thanking Sr. Lucia for her precious self-donation to the Congregation and we entrust to her intercession all the needs of that Delegation, which she deeply loved.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 18 November 2016