

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

At 9:50 this morning, the Father of Mercy visited the infirmary wing of our community of Alba, Italy, to call to himself our sister:


CIPOLLA SR. GIUSEPPINA
born in Dovera (Cremona), Italy on 9 February 1931.

Sr. Giuseppina's life can be summed up in an evaluation of her made by one of her superiors (Sr. Mansueta) in 1961, before her entrance into the novitiate: "Regarding Giuseppina, I have only the best to say about her in everything. She is very docile and deeply attached to the Congregation, to her superiors and sisters. She carries out the apostolate generously, with a supernatural spirit and a great spirit of sacrifice. She is a very good and friendly person, a young woman of deep prayer and recollection. I am convinced that she will give glory to God as a Daughter of St. Paul. I don't think I am exaggerating here...." At the end of Sr. Giuseppina's life, we can confirm that Sr. Mansueta did not exaggerate in her assessment of our sister's personality. She was indeed a docile and obedient person, with a profound sense of belonging to the Congregation and a great love for the Pauline vocation. She was a fervent sister, who deeply believed in the importance of the Pauline apostolate and who carried it out quietly, fecundating it with her prayers.

Sr. Giuseppina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 24 May 1954 in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. Luigia. After a period of time in Novara, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1957. Afterward, she was sent to Mantua, where she dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the diffusion apostolate. She continued the "propaganda" apostolate in Belluno and Lugano (Switzerland), followed by a brief time in Milan. After this, she worked in the Genoa, Ravenna and Lugano book centers respectively. A very zealous Pauline apostle, she was a member of our Lugano community for 13 years consecutively and the book center clients still remember her smile, her goodness and her great generosity. In fact, they called her "the good sister" because she was discreet, patient and humble, and everything she said was marked by charity, even when she was dealing with very difficult personalities. Everyone left the book center satisfied with her assistance, bearing in mind the memory of her smile. Sr. Giuseppina assiduously cultivated her interior life, finding in the wellspring of the Pauline spirituality the strength to carry out her apostolate joyfully and enthusiastically. She lived in God in a constant attitude of humility, preferring a role behind the scenes rather than one in the spotlight. The sisters who lived with her remember that she always tried to remain in the background, not so as to avoid work but out of discretion. She was truly a sister who witnessed to simplicity—a person who dedicated her entire being to her beloved Jesus and to the members of her community, whom she sought to serve in every way possible. Sr. Giuseppina's quiet demeanor and discretion drew young women to the Pauline religious life because they detected the presence of God in her. Poverty and a moderate, balanced lifestyle were two of her outstanding features. She was also very spare in her writings, leaving behind concrete and profound thoughts condensed into just a few lines, all of which were centered on Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life and on Mary, Queen of Apostles, her constant points of reference. We catch a glimpse of Sr. Giuseppina's personality in a note she wrote to her provincial superior, asking to pursue higher studies, if possible. The note read: "While it is true that I don't feel I have enough training to carry out the apostolate, I am nevertheless serene because I am sure that the grace of my vocation will make up for my shortcomings. However, I would appreciate it if you would take my request into consideration, according to the possibilities and in the manner you think best."

After Lugano, Sr. Giuseppina worked in the Padua and Aosta book centers, although by now her health was declining. Diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease, she was transferred to the infirmary wing of the San Giuseppe community of Alba in 2004.

We thank Sr. Giuseppina for having sowed the light of God in our communities and we place on her lips the words of today's Liturgy, certain that she is in full accord with them: "I trust in the kindness of God forever." Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 31 August 2011