

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

The Lord has once again visited us. At about 4:30 a.m. today, one of our sisters, a patient in St. Eugenio Hospital, Rome, Italy, passed to the other shore:

CIPOLLINI GIUSEPPINA – SR. MARIA VALERIA
born in Ascoli Piceno, Italy on 8 July, 1927.

The call of this dear sister to heaven came suddenly, even though her physical condition was very fragile, due in particular to severe heart failure. Two days ago she broke her leg and was taken to the hospital but her weak heart was not equal to the strain and at dawn today the time arrived for her to “unfurl her sails” and embark on the immense sea of eternity to receive the “crown of justice” prepared for good apostles.

Sr. Valeria entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 12 October 1947. She carried in her heart a great desire for holiness and a yearning to take the Gospel to even the most remote corners of the earth. She lived a time of apostolic experience in Catanzaro and then returned to Rome for her novitiate, which ended with her first profession on 19 March during the Holy Year of 1950.

For 16 consecutive years she carried out the Pauline mission in the huge FSP typography in Rome, which was a beehive of activity in that period. Sr. Valeria made her contribution to the printing and binding of catechisms and related catechetical material, the series of books on the Fathers of the Church, and many other formative, biographical and mission-oriented texts.

Afterward, she dedicated herself for about 40 years to the book center apostolate in the communities of Ancona, Foggia, Bari, and the Divine Providence and Castro Pretorio communities of Rome. She firmly believed in the beauty and effectiveness of the Pauline apostolate and with creativity and passion sought the most suitable ways to disseminate the Gospel message. Sr. Valeria’s joyful, welcoming and very expansive character favored contact with all categories of people—something she did tirelessly, in spite of serious health problems resulting from the onset of lupus, which required her to be hospitalized for a considerable period of time at Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano.

In 2008 she returned to the Divine Providence community of Rome, where she continued to work as long as her health permitted in the packaging of various products and especially in the preparation of thousands and thousands of bows to be affixed to packages of books distributed by our book centers.

Sr. Valeria’s love for the missions, which she had cultivated even as a small child, expanded her heart to the dimensions of the world. Many years ago, when she was stationed in Bari, she had established a warm friendship with a young Franciscan Friar from Mozambique, offering her prayers, sufferings and her life itself for this young priest and his country. Today, Fr. Francis Chimoio is the Bishop of Maputo and we know that she prayed for him, his intentions and his homeland up to the end of her life.

Sr. Valeria always nourished a deep affection for Maestra Thecla and felt deeply loved by her in return. She treasured as a precious remembrance of Prima Maestra a handwritten note which bore the words: “I would like to send you small messages frequently but the time flies by! Always be happy and serene. Willingly do the holy will of God, which he manifests at every moment. In this way, you will become a saint! I am thinking of you and praying for you. Please remember, in your turn, poor M. Theca to the divine mercy of God.”

In today’s Gospel reading, the sick and the suffering flocked to Jesus, yearning for healing. Who knows how many times Sr. Valeria also longed to touch the hem of her Master’s cloak.... Today that dream became a reality for her. She too has now finally experienced the healing and revitalizing “touch” of her Spouse in a relationship that will last for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 10 February 2020