

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

Just after midnight last night, the Lord Jesus visited our community of Albano, Italy to call to himself our sister:

CREDICO BENEDETTA – SR. RITA
born in San Giovanni in Galdo (Campobasso), Italy on 15 November 1915.

The above picture of this sister captures her simple, smiling and good-natured personality. Especially during the last stage of her life, it was common to see her pushing her walker along the hallways of our Albano community. A very friendly person, Sr. Rita was always able to put people at ease and entertain them with her humorous comments. Of course, like everyone, she had her brusque moments, but most of the time she witnessed to the fact that her heart overflowed with goodness, generosity, sincere interest in others and a great spirit of service.

Sr. Rita entered the Congregation in Rome on 8 Sept. 1935, two years after her sister, Sr. Domenica (who died several years ago). She willingly accepted the poverty of our first Roman community and generously carried out all the services asked of her, especially in the technical apostolate, which she quickly learned to love. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 3 March 1940. Five years later, she made her perpetual vows, also in Rome. In her letter asking admittance to perpetual profession, she wrote: "With humility and firm will, I ask the Lord to make me good...." Although she was probably unaware of it, her words echoed those of the first Rule of the Daughters of St. Paul (1916), in which the Founder states: "The Lord has brought you together so that here, more easily than in the world, you can become good and do good to others."

Sr. Rita's simple biographical data is enriched by the abundance of goodness, dedication and suffering that characterized everything she did. After carrying out the Pauline mission for about a year in Lecce, in 1948 she was sent to Grottaferrata because she was suffering from tuberculosis. From there, she was moved to the new Albano clinic, where she received treatment for the lesions the disease had caused in her lungs. In 1952 she returned to Grottaferrata and remained there until 1972. During those 20 years, she carried out a wide range of household duties (kitchen, laundry, vegetable garden, housecleaning, etc.) necessary to maintaining the community of FSP writers resident there. In 1972, she was transferred back to Albano, where she remained until her death.

Our sisters of Albano say that Sr. Rita was a big-hearted, hard-working person, who carried out her duties in the housekeeping and kitchen sectors with great responsibility, especially in the years when these demanding and fatiguing services were all performed by the Daughters of St. Paul. Sr. Rita devoted her life to doing whatever was asked of her, feeling herself to be a Pauline in every sense of the word, even when asked to perform tiring and non-gratifying tasks. She continued this way, day after day, well into her senior years, until her health began to decline as a result of a throat tumor which, although benign, provoked many other physical problems. In these last days, Sr. Rita suffered repeated heart spasms and asthma attacks, each of which was life-threatening. But her strong will to live always enabled her to rally and get back on her feet to once more push her walker down the hallways, where she continued to smile and joke with everyone, offering them the simple friendliness and goodness of her presence.

Sr. Rita has now left her beloved Albano community for the Pauline community in heaven, which is increasing day by day. We are sure that from there she will continue to be profoundly united to all of us still here on earth and will obtain for us the grace, light and strength we need to understand "where the Lord is leading us" at this particular moment in time so as to reach a future filled with hope.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 8 may 2009