

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

At 6:00 p.m. today, the Lord once again visited us, calling to himself one of our sisters in the infirmary wing of the Divine Providence community, Via Antonino Pio, Rome, Italy:

CRESCINI ANNA MADDALENA – SR. M. ROSANNA
born in Gussago (Brescia), Italy on 26 November 1938.

Moved by a profound yearning to do the will of the Lord and dedicate herself wholeheartedly to the proclamation of the Gospel, Sr. Rosanna entered the Congregation in Alba on 22 Jan. 1958. From the very beginning of her Pauline life she learned to direct all her energy to the spread of the kingdom of God through her service first in the shipping department in Alba and then in capillary and collective diffusion in Verona.

She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 30 June 1961. As a young professed, she continued to carry out the diffusion apostolate in the diocese of Milan and then in Piacenza and Palermo.

After a brief experience in La Spezia and a year in Verona to complete her cultural formation, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency in Livorno in 1971 and later to that of Palermo. She then spent three years studying theology in Brescia, after which she dedicated herself for more than 30 years to the book center apostolate in La Spezia, Trent, Ancona, Savona, Palermo, Perugia and Lecce successively, working especially in the audiovisual department. Sr. Rosanna firmly believed that from the book center she could carry out the teaching mission entrusted to her. With joy and conviction, she said that even just a few words from a book, an audiovisual or even a simple bookmark could touch hearts and convert people to the Faith. In view of this, she channeled all her creativity into carrying out her apostolate in the best way possible, attentive to the needs of each person, spontaneously communicating to everyone the faith that enriched her life. In Lecce, she was also a member of the archdiocesan vocational animation center.

With keen suffering she asked for a year of absence from the Congregation so as to care for her elderly mother, who was gravely ill. On that occasion, she made a pact with the Lord, telling him with deep emotion that she offered him the renunciation of community life but that in exchange she expected him to send at least one vocation to our Institute. During her absence from the Congregation did she not neglect the Pauline apostolate. In fact, she wrote: "I began distributing our catalogue in preparation for Christmas. I have not held any book displays but people are always asking me to recommend titles. I have asked our sisters of Brescia to keep me supplied with our publications, as well as with copies of *Il Giornalino* and the *Family Magazine*. The diffusion of all this material is increasing week by week."

Sr. Rosanna had been deeply struck by a conference of Maestra Thecla, which she had memorized: "Seek God alone," Prima Maestra had said. "Do his will. I learned that we should trust only in God and live our vow of obedience serenely." Welcoming this pressing invitation, which gave direction to her life, Sr. Rosanna lived her final years on earth carrying out the apostolate of suffering, bearing the yoke of the cross with great tranquility and trust.

In 2013, she was transferred to the Divine Providence community, Rome, to work in the apostolic sector that supplies our book centers with editions from other publishing houses. It was during this time that the first signs of Alzheimer's disease began to emerge, prompting her to repeat the *yes* to the Lord that had characterized her life. Placing herself in the hands of her doctors and nurses, she continually expressed her gratitude to them for their goodness and for every service rendered to her. Her love for the Pauline mission motivated her to the very end of her life, inducing her to tirelessly distribute copies of the Gospel to her relatives, friends and anyone else who came to see her.

In the last days of her life, a chain of cerebral ischemias (a shortage of bloodflow to the brain) robbed her of her eyesight and mobility, and hastened her meeting with the Lord.

With profound gratitude to our sister, we entrust her to the mercy of God the Father, asking him to bestow on her the "crown of justice" promised to all those who, like the Apostle Paul, lovingly await his coming.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Porenzan
Superior General

Rome, 28 June 2017