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Dearest Sisters,

In this Second Week of Lent, the Divine Master called to participate in the light of Tabor our sister

CUSCITO ANGELA MARIA – SR. MARIA SILVANA
born in Acquaviva delle Fonti (Bari), Italy on 3 March 1927.

Sr. M. Silvana died at 3:30 p.m. in the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, where she had been living for about 2 years after having been diagnosed as suffering from cancer. She faced this experience with a silent and gentle spirit, serenely accepting the Lord's will for her.

Sr. M. Silvana entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 17 Sept. 1948. She made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. Afterward, she was assigned to the reception desk of the large Via Antonino Pio community, where she immediately manifested her great spirit of hospitality. She was later transferred to the Brescia book center, after which she returned to Rome to resume her activities as receptionist. In 1958, she went to Perugia, where she once again was assigned to the book center—the apostolate that would characterize the rest of her life. In fact, it was precisely in 1958 that Primo Maestro said with great prophetic insight: “The book center staff works in a church and should behave as one would behave in church. If Jesus is in the heart of a sister, then she collaborates with him and should thus behave as he or the Blessed Mother would behave.... The sisters who work in the book center should feel that they are bearers and distributors of grace. They should see the book center as a place that radiates warmth and light.”

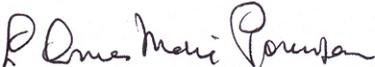
With these words in her heart, Sr. M. Silvana carried out the book center apostolate in various parts of Italy: Chieti, Naples, Messina, Palermo, Taranto and Cosenza. Wherever she went, she was a competent and compassionate apostle, attentive to the needs of the people, able to collaborate with others and sought out by clients, who valued her advice since it was always illuminated by great faith. In 1981, Sr. M. Silvana took time out for an updating period in Alba. Afterward she returned to the book center apostolate, this time in the cities of Cagliari, Salerno, Ancona, Foggia and once again Perugia. She lived among us in a spirit of great humility and profound serenity, virtues she drew from the Tabernacle and from the Word of God, which she welcomed and assimilated with great love.

In 2005, the discovery that she was suffering from cancer changed her prospects for the future. Sr. M. Silvana accepted her illness with courage and fortitude, surrendering herself to the will of her Lord and Master. She was inserted first into the ex-IV Novembre community and then into the Thecla Merlo community, both in Albano, undergoing several cycles of chemotherapy during this period. The sisters who accompanied her in this last period of her life remember above all her gentle spirit, her deep love of nature, her goodness and her ability to ask others for forgiveness when she believed she had hurt them in some way.

In the mysterious plan of divine Providence, Sr. M. Silvana went to meet the Divine Master just two days after the Feast of St. Joseph—the day marking the 60th anniversary of her self-offering to him through religious profession. Today her vow to *offer, give and consecrate* herself entirely to him reached its fulfillment.

During the course of spiritual exercises in preparation for her first profession, the Founder said to Sr. Silvana's novitiate group: “If we want to live in Christ, then we must make our own his burning desire to make the Father known so that at the end of our life we will be able to say: ‘Father, I have proclaimed your name to everyone.’ When you die, you should rejoice to think that the printing presses worked at full speed, that your feet walked many miles, that you poured all your energy into carrying out the apostolate. When we have dedicated ourselves completely to Jesus, what do we have to fear?”

We are sure that Sr. M. Silvana passed to eternity rejoicing that she spent all her energy for the Lord and gave him all her love. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 21 March 2011