

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

At 4:10 p.m. today, Holy Thursday, the Divine Master visited the San Raffaele (infirmary) wing of our Albano community, Italy, to call one of our sisters to full participation in his mystery of service and love:

DAL BON DANILA – SR. M. BEATRICE
born in Nogara (Verona), Italy on 17 June 1923.

Love and service are the words that best summarize the life of this dear sister who, with simplicity, humility and without calling attention to herself, donated her life totally to the Lord, the people and the communities in which she lived.

Sr. M. Beatrice entered the Congregation in Alba on 3 October 1947 when she was 24, which at that time was considered an “advanced” age. Immediately inserted into the apostolic life of the Institute, she was sent to Ivrea in 1948 and after that to Voghera where, with a heavy propaganda bag, she visited the families of those areas, joyfully and zealously diffusing the Word of God. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. Three days later, she returned to Voghera and from there went on to Pavia and Genoa, carrying out the diffusion and book center apostolates in all three communities. Afterward, she worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Brescia and Udine for about 10 years. Prior to her definitive insertion into the Albano community, she also worked in the Treviso book center.

In 1953, M. Thecla wrote her the following message, which is a good synthesis of Sr. Beatrice’s spiritual journey: “What you confided to me about your vocation story makes me more and more convinced that the Lord wants you to be completely his and that you are destined to do great good. I felt this in my heart when I spoke with you in Alba.... Go forward, trusting in God. Love the Blessed Mother and the Congregation. Become a saint....”

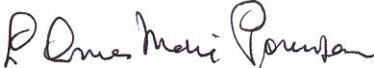
When Sr. Beatrice was hospitalized at Albano in 1991, she intuitively felt that this was the place in which she could bring to fulfillment her yearning for self-donation, prayer, selfless service and holiness. From the way she described the experience, it was clear that it was a very important moment in her life—the beginning of a stage of her journey foreseen by the Lord in his loving plan for her. In fact, she wrote: “I want to ask to remain here, among these sisters, many of whom assist the suffering in a direct way. Inasmuch as I can, I want to serve these sisters, who carry out such an important and delicate mission. And I want to do this with an apostolic and missionary spirit, in union with all the Daughters of St. Paul throughout the world. May the Lord bless this intention, by means of which I want to glorify him forever.”

In accepting her request, the FSP councilors of Albano called Sr. Beatrice “a peaceful, serene, simple, discreet and hard-working person.” And so she remained, up to the end of her life. She spent the next 20 years taking care of the Albano refectory, offering warm hospitality to the many sisters from our various communities of Rome who stopped in to have breakfast and who were always favorably impressed by the diligence and discretion with which she quietly carried out her duties, accompanied by a kind smile.

When declining health made it necessary to transfer her to the San Raffaele wing of the community, Sr. Beatrice continued her service and caring attention to the sisters by taking on the responsibility of cleaning and stocking the small kitchen there. The climate of profound prayer and recollection that she radiated reminded all those with whom she came in contact to look on high, toward eternal values.

A few weeks ago, Sr. Beatrice contracted pneumonia, causing everyone to fear for her life. In these days her situation worsened, resulting in heart failure, which was the direct cause of her return to the Father. Today, Holy Thursday, her final “hour” arrived—the time for her to bring her intense love for Christ to completion so as to participate in the glory of his resurrection.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 18 April 2019