

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

At about 10:00 p.m. yesterday, the Father visited our James Alberione community of Albano, Italy to call to new life our sister:

DAL CORSO EMMA – SR. MARCELLINA MARIA
born in Lugo di Grezzana (Verona), Italy on 3 January 1927.

Sr. Marcellina died as the result of an excessive accumulation of fluid in the lungs, a consequence of the cancer that had invaded not only that organ but also her liver and bones. She had accepted her serious medical condition with serenity and dignity, in a spirit of faith, aware that she was drawing near to the supreme moment of her life. Contemplating this prospect, she said over and over again in these last few days: “How wonderful! How wonderful!” It seemed as if she had already moved to another dimension, where she enjoyed the presence and company of persons invisible to human eyes.

Sr. Marcellina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 27 April 1949, four years after her sister, Sr. Lucia. Since the Dal Corso girls were reluctant to cause their family suffering by leaving home at the same time, Sr. Marcellina gave precedence to her sister Lucia because she was afraid her older sister might change her mind! Sr. Marcellina spent the period of her initial formation in Alba and Verona, after which she was sent to Rome for her novitiate. She concluded this stage of the formation process with her first profession on 19 March 1951. In the following years she carried out the diffusion apostolate with great love, simplicity and self-renunciation in the communities of Verona, Ancona and Piacenza. She then served as a generous and attentive local superior in Belluno, Trapani and Treviso successively. Following this, she worked with great zeal in the book centers of Alessandria, Naples, Rovigo and Aquila, convinced of what the Founder said in 1955: “From the book center, you are all teachers.... The book center is a center of light. Welcome the people not as customers but as souls to be saved; as persons to be enlightened and consoled.”

For several years, Sr. Marcellina worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Trent and Bologna. Her availability and docility to her superiors was legendary. She wrote to her provincial superior in 1969: “My only desire is to love the Congregation and respond to its needs in any way I can, small though my contribution might be. I am happy and content with my life.” On that occasion, with her usual humility and spirit of availability, she indicated her readiness to carry out domestic services in a local community. Her provincial gratefully accepted this offer and thus, from 1980 up until a year ago, Sr. Marcellina carried out the service of wardrobe keeper in the communities of Ariccia-Galloro, Rocca di Papa, the Thecla Merlo community of Albano and, most recently, the James Alberione community of Albano. She also ran errands and willingly accompanied sisters to doctors’ appointments.

Sr. Marcellina’s entire being radiated kindness and serenity. We will never forget her sweet smile and joyful gaze, mute testimonies to her joy at being a Daughter of St. Paul. When she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious profession, she wrote: “My heart overflows with joy for all the graces the Lord has bestowed on me over the past 50 years of life in my beloved Congregation. I have always been deeply grateful to him for having led me into the Pauline Family. I thank the Father for our beautiful, strong and complete spirituality. The daily hour of adoration has always been a source of light, restoration and comfort for me. It gives me the chance to examine my life more deeply. For all this, I praise and glorify God!”

Sr. Marcellina bore her malady with the dignity that had always characterized her. She never complained about the cancer that was slowly invading her body, nor did she dwell on it excessively. Her intense prayer and intimate relationship with the Jesus, her Master, enabled her to live the last stage of her life with goodness, peace and a refined spirit. This is how we and her dear sister Lucia will always remember her. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 19 May 2010