

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

At about 11:00 a.m. today, the Father visited our Divine Providence community in Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

DALESE MARIA LUIGIA – SR. MARIA GIULIANA
born in San Vito d'Altivole (Treviso), Italy on 9 February 1923.

Sr. Giuliana was a good and kind sister, who cultivated a deep relationship with the Blessed Trinity. We are sure that it was this intimate rapport that gave her the grace to live every moment of her life with a smile on her lips, as she sincerely wanted to do. And it was with a smile on her lips that she went to meet the Lord after several years of serious illness and suffering. Afflicted with cerebral atrophy, she little by little lost her lucidity and, in the last stage of her malady, also the ability to swallow and thus the capacity to nourish herself. But her illness did not deprive her of the most important aspect of her life—her profound communication with Jesus Master.

Sr. Giuliana entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 15 August 1941. She followed in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. Eugenia, who had entered our Institute nine years earlier. With regard to her vocation, Sr. Giuliana wrote: “I was a member of the local Catholic Action group and I spent a lot of time praying before Jesus in the Eucharist, asking him for the gift of wisdom. One day, I felt strongly moved by the desire to belong to God alone for the rest of my life. Thus, at the age of 14, in a moment of deep communion with my Lord, I offered my virginity to God. The date was 8 Dec. 1937.”

Sr. Giuliana made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1945. On 2 Oct. 1946, after just a year in Ascoli Piceno, she was sent to Barcelona, Spain, where three sisters had opened our first community just two months earlier. In the post-war period, they were still searching for a house under a regime that left little space for religion. Sr. Giuliana even spent a few hours in prison after a long interrogation. In those hours of great fear, she consoled herself with the beatitude: “*Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of my name.*”

After Barcelona, Sr. Giuliana collaborated with the beginnings of the communities of Valencia and Valladolid. These were years rich in faith, poverty and also many beautiful surprises of the Lord who, at the end of a special novena, made the small Valladolid community the gift of a small red house that closely resembled a model Sr. Giuliana had prophetically drawn.

After her return to Italy, Sr. Giuliana lived in the communities of Genoa, Naples (Capodimonte), Albano, Verona, Reggio Emilia, IV Novembre (Albano) and Alba. Everywhere she went she sowed seeds of kindness, goodness, generosity, and her joy in belonging to the Lord. Sr. Giuliana’s humility drew many people to her, seeking her advice and her wise words.

The life of this dear sister was a hymn of praise to God. On 8 December 1991, she added a long *litany of graces received* to her spiritual testament. She wrote: “I thank the Lord with all my heart for his love for me.... I thank him because he has never tired of forgiving me and showing me his endless mercy.... I kneel before all my sisters, asking them to forgive me and I prostrate myself before the most high God, asking him to have mercy on me. I hope no one will cry when they receive the news of my death. Instead, I hope they sing hymns of praise and glory to the Lord, whose mercy endures forever.”

We too thank Sr. Giuliana for the gift of her life—a life she wanted to be characterized by love in response to the irresistible Love that had called her.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 16 June 2009