

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

At about 2:30 p.m. today, the Lord Jesus visited the San Raffaele wing of our community of Albano, Italy and in his great love called to heaven our sister:

DALL'IGNA ANNA – SR. M. CONCETTA
born in Spinimbecco (Verona), Italy on 1 June 1928.

Sr. M. Concetta entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 14 September 1950, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. And we can say that the cross left a particular mark on her life since, about 40 years ago, she was struck by a trigeminal nerve problem that gave her a great deal of health disturbances over the years.

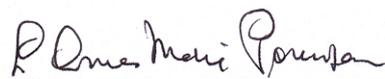
Sr. M. Concetta was an excellent seamstress so when she entered the Institute she was asked to help out in the Alba sewing room. She was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1954. On that memorable day, Fr. Alberione offered the newly-professed sisters words of great hope, saying: "On the point of death, when you are about to pass to eternity and make your 'final profession,' you will remember today. On that day the priest will not say to you, 'Receive the hundredfold and eternal life,' but in a certain way he will introduce you to this reality. At that moment, remember that in life you received a hundredfold of grace and thank the Lord for this. Then make your eternal profession.... And when Jesus says to you: 'Come, spouse of Christ,' you will be able to say *yes* just as generously as you said *yes* to your religious vocation."

These emphatic words of the Founder were carved into the heart of Sr. M. Concetta and they motivated her life. When she made her perpetual profession in 1960, she wrote to Prima Maestra, "Every day, I ask the Lord to make me a saint and to help me persevere in my vocation up to the very end."

Sr. M. Concetta generously repeated her *yes* to God in every situation. She said *yes* when she was asked to give up the direct Pauline apostolate so as to work in the sewing rooms of Naples/Capodimonte, Messina, Bologna and La Spezia successively. She renewed this *yes* when, in 1974, she was transferred to Alba to help take care of the sick members of that community. And in 1978 she said *yes* yet again when the Superior General assigned her to the sewing room of our Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano. For more than 20 years, Sr. M. Concetta lovingly and competently carried out this service to the doctors and other members of the hospital staff. In fact, the hospital wardrobes were always sweet-smelling and its surgical garments in perfect order and repair thanks to her expert care.

In 2003, Sr. M. Concetta's failing health made it necessary for her to give up this apostolate, which she replaced with community services. She continued to offer the sisters the gift of her goodness, tactful presence and gratitude, even as her prayer life increased in intensity. Her spirit of recollection allowed everyone to glimpse her intimacy with the Blessed Mother, which was a dominant feature of her life. In fact, just two days ago, after receiving the Anointing of the Sick, she joined the sisters in singing the *Salve Regina*, even though her voice was barely above a whisper. In 1969, she had written to her provincial superior: "I am happy to do the work assigned to me because in this way I can be useful to the Congregation." Sr. M. Concetta was "useful" to the Congregation not only because of her generosity and competence in carrying out her responsibilities but above all because she dedicated her entire life to the Lord, offering it to him silently, in a continual spirit of sacrifice. And today, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are sure that the fire of God's love purified her completely and admitted her to the kingdom of the saints.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 11, June 2010