



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At about 6:30 a.m. today, the Divine Master visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to flood with the living water of his love our sister:

DE TONI BIANCA – SR. MARIA CHIARA
born in San Giorgio di Caorle (Venice), Italy on 10 August 1935.

In early October 2019, Sr. Chiara was preparing to go to Spain to participate, as every year, in the International Book Fair. For her, it was an eagerly awaited occasion to meet the various publishers, learn about new books and re-supply the FSP International Multimedia Center in Rome, where she worked, with a richer choice of content. But God the Father, in his impenetrable designs, called her to another experience: a feeling of intense illness compelled her to be admitted to Regina Apostolorum Hospital, Albano, where she was diagnosed as suffering from intestinal cancer, already at an advanced stage. We are sure that the need to withdraw from her Media Center mission was Sr. Chiara's greatest suffering in the following months, which she lived in the hope that her condition would improve. For her, the Center was truly a place of light from which the Word of salvation radiated to almost every corner of the world. And she herself was a light for others by means of her joyful, cordial and welcoming personality. Since 1993, she had been managing the Center's Spanish sector with great competence and there is probably no bishop, priest, seminarian or other pastoral worker who had not had the opportunity to meet her and be guided by her Gospel-based suggestions, reinforced by the cultural background she had acquired in carrying out her mission. The world of Spanish religious publishing held no secrets for her. There was no author she was not familiar with and there was no theological or cultural text regarding which she could not give a suitable presentation. The Media Center was truly her pulpit—her place of evangelization and daily self-donation.

Sr. Chiara entered the Congregation in the house of Rome on 6 Jan. 1951. She made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1955, during the year dedicated to the Divine Master. She would have certainly been deeply moved by the meditations in which the Founder opened the Pauline mission to the ends of the earth. Her heart too yearned to reach the whole world, even though she was completely ready to do the will of God. Preparing to make her perpetual profession, she wrote to the Superior General: "I am in your hands. Do whatever you want with me: I am ready to leave Italy or to go elsewhere."

Her mission in Italy was carried out in some of the circumscription's most important book centers: Palermo, Naples, Rovigo, Ferrara, Cagliari, Bologna. In 1972, she embarked on life as a missionary, in which she would work in some of the busiest FSP book centers in Latin America, especially Uruguay and Peru. In Montevideo (Uruguay) and Lima (Peru), her collaborators and numerous clients remember her enthusiasm and the empathy with which she related to everyone, as well as her professionalism and continuous commitment to becoming familiar with the book center's stock so as to offer valid content for the formation of all categories of people. Through these centers, she carried out a genuine teaching mission, training countless seminarians who later became priests and bishops. From 1974 to 1980, Sr. Chiara served as superior of the Montevideo community. Later she was appointed provincial councilor of our Argentina-Uruguay circumscription. In 1985, she was asked to make an apostolic transition to Peru where, in addition to directing the Lima book center, she also served as local superior. In 1991, Sr. Chiara returned to Rome for a time of rest and study in the Via dei Lucchesi community. And finally, in 1993, she was assigned to the Via del Mascherino community, Rome, to work in our International Pauline Multimedia Center.

From there, she performed a valuable and very competent service especially to the Latin American Church thanks to her daily contact with bishops, priests, seminarians and lay people from that continent. This service nourished her prayer, enhanced her life and enabled her to share with everyone the "gift of God" that had seized and conquered her. She also carried out the Pauline mission in an itinerant way by organizing book displays for international meetings and at the pontifical universities present in Rome.

The last months of Sr. Chiara's life, characterized by intense suffering through which the Father intimately united her to his Son on the cross, certainly enriched her apostolic life with great fruitfulness. And precisely because of her sacrifice, that living water, which she had always ardently desired, was poured into her and will now become a wellspring gushing forth to quench the thirst and the lives of many people. Affectionately,

Rome, 16 March 2020


sr Anna Maria Parezan