

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

At 10:30 p.m. yesterday, God called one of the members of our El Hatillo, Venezuela community to eternal life:

**DE ANGELI MARIA – SR. MARIA FERNANDA
born in Massa Apuania, Italy on 19 August 1931.**

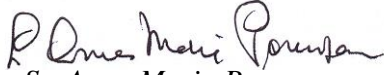
Up to the last day of her life, Sr. Maria Fernanda lived in an attitude of thanksgiving and complete self-donation to God, feeling herself to be Pauline missionary in every fiber of her being. She entered the Congregation in Alba on 20 September 1948. After a time spent carrying out the “propaganda” apostolate in the dioceses of Cuneo and Brescia, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate. This stage of her formation ended with her first profession on 19 March 1952. As a Junior, she was assigned to the community of Chiavari, where she resumed the diffusion apostolate, reaching countless people in the Liguria area with her bag overflowing with books. After her perpetual profession in 1957, she worked for a short time in the Cosenza book center and then returned to Chiavari. Appointed superior of this community, she was deeply loved by its members, as well as by the sisters who spent periods of time there recuperating their health in the beneficial seaside atmosphere. Whenever possible, Sr. Fernanda would lend a hand in visiting the many maritime resorts in the area with our Pauline publications.

In 1967, the Lord invited her to leave Italy as a missionary to Puerto Rico, where an FSP community had just been opened in Rio Piedras. Sr. Fernanda spent the most beautiful years of her life in Puerto Rico, serving as local superior for 5 mandates and working in the book center for another 10. Her kind and hospitable personality and her maternal concern for the needs of the people favorably impressed everyone she met and drew them to the book center. When she was transferred to Venezuela, the positive impression she had left on everyone prompted the local Catholic newspaper to write:

“Sr. Fernanda could not speak a word of Spanish when she left her homeland and arrived on our island with a smile on her face and a heart overflowing with missionary fervor. She didn’t even know where Puerto Rico, known as *The Enchanted Island*, was on the map, or anything about its culture and history. Her vow of obedience—accompanied by its inseparable sisters: faith, hope and love—brought her to us. The ‘baggage’ she brought with her consisted of the promise made by Jesus to all those who had left parents, brothers and sisters for his sake..... As a missionary, Sr. Fernanda yearned to evangelize the people by means of the most rapid and effective instruments. Now that she is leaving us for Venezuela, we want to thank our dear sister for her great commitment to the Puerto Rican people, for her many sacrifices and prayers for us, and for the charity and enthusiasm with which she carried out her mission among us. She truly made herself ‘all to all’ in imitation of St. Paul. May God bless her!”

Sr. Fernanda also spent many years in Venezuela. She served as superior of the Barquisimeto community for several non-consecutive mandates, worked in the book center and carried out the role of assistant novice mistress. She worked in the Caracas and Puerto Ordaz book centers; in El Hatillo, the delegation’s central house, she was responsible for importing book center stock and also carried out other services. She was determined to live as a missionary up to the end of her life and the Lord satisfied this yearning. For the last two years of her life she lived in El Hatillo, where she was lovingly cared for by the other members of the community. About a month ago she was admitted to the intensive care wing of the local hospital due to a severe case of pneumonia. Her already weak heart degenerated even further and yesterday evening she left us, sweetly surrendering herself into the hands of the One who lovingly invited her rejoice and not be afraid to accompany him to heaven. As we pray the Christmas novena, we ask that the light of the Radiant Dawn pour down upon our sister and envelop her in the glorious light of eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 21 December 2016