

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

At about 8:00 p.m. today, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione community of Albano, Italy to lovingly call to himself our sister,

**DELMONTE ARCANGELA – SR. IMMACOLATA
born in Tusa (Messina), Italy on 16 February 1929.**

A simple and short note from Maestra Thecla, written on the Feast of St. Paul 1961, gives us a glimpse of Sr. Immacolata's spiritual journey: "Thank you for your prayers," the note reads. "Do whatever is asked of you for the love for God. In this way you will gain many merits and become holy." Throughout her life, Sr. Immacolata truly sought always and only the will of the Lord, desiring to please him in everything.

She entered the Congregation on 22 January 1951 in the community of Rome, where she underwent her initial formation and made her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1954. As a young professed, Sr. Immacolata carried out capillary and collective diffusion in the diocese of La Spezia. The time of preparation for her perpetual profession in 1959 left a profound imprint on her life. During that period, she carried out an intensive and confidential correspondence with her formation mistress, Sr. Concettina Borgogno. Those letters, carefully preserved by Sr. Immacolata and now yellowed by time, reveal her desire to follow the paths of God, to increase her spiritual fervor, and to grow in generosity, holiness and obedience to her superiors.

Her secret was to live the circumstances of her daily life heroically by putting into practice the advice of her formator to "become one of those little ones who give pleasure to the heavenly Father by sowing everywhere the edifying example of generosity, docility and zeal."

Sr. Immacolata served her sisters by carrying out with humility and faith even the most simple services asked of her. Except for a brief period in the St. Paul Film Agency of Naples and another short time in the Grosseto book center, Sr. Immacolata spent the years from 1961-2001 carrying out various household duties in the communities of Chiavari, Reggio Calabria, San Benedetto del Tronto and Livorno. She spent almost 30 non-consecutive years in this last community, where she serenely and quietly carried out the service of cook and also helped make hosts.

The sisters who lived with Sr. Immacolata over the years remember her goodness, serenity and focus on essentials. She wrote in 1997: "I want to conform myself to Christ to the point that *it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me* so as to be able to do all the good he wants me to do to souls."

Sr. Immacolata spent the last 11 years of her life first in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano and then in the James Alberione community in the same town. She never complained about anything but lived in a spirit of recollection and interior dialogue with her Lord, irradiating the peace and serenity that had characterized her entire life. And the Lord blessed her with the gift of mental clarity up to the very end. In fact, she died while waiting for a phone call from her beloved niece, hoping to have a last conversation with her.

Sr. Immacolata leaves us the heritage of her great love for the Pauline vocation, a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin, whose name she bore, and a great yearning to always and everywhere carry out the will of God. Let us entrust to her apostolic heart the hunger of contemporary humanity which, like the people at the time of the prophet Amos, long not for bread but for the Word of the Lord.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 6 July 2012