



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

At about 3:00 a.m. last night, the Father visited our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to eternal peace and joy our sister

**DELPOGETTO SR. CELESTINA MARIA EMMA
born in Noceto (Parma), Italy on 23 July 1914.**

Lucid and active up to the end of her life, Sr. Celestina did not reside in the infirmary wing of her community. Up until yesterday, she was taking her daily walks in the courtyard of the Motherhouse, where she enjoyed contemplating the beauties of nature. We remember her as a happy, enthusiastic sister who was grateful to God for her vocation and valued it deeply. She went to meet the Lord so quietly and serenely that her passage to eternity went almost undetected. Sisters nearby at the time say that all they heard was her request for water because she was thirsty. With that, she expired, prompting us to think that her true “thirst” at that moment was for the Living Water.

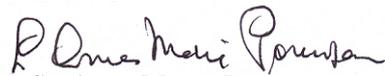
Sr. Celestina nourished great desires throughout her life: the desire to become holy, to serve God as a missionary, and to live the universal dimension of the Church and Institute. She was already fired by the desire to become holy when she entered the Congregation in Alba on 27 Jan. 1934. In presenting her to the Daughters of St. Paul, her pastor stressed that she was a zealous young woman who was a good example to everyone. She reconfirmed her longing for holiness over and over again throughout her life. When the Congregation launched its Missionary Project in 1994, she wrote: “I am completely happy with my religious consecration, which enables me to rejoice even in the midst of sacrifices. I ask myself: What prompts me to dedicate my days completely to the Lord, without taking even a minute for myself? It is my love for Jesus, for the Father, for the three divine Persons.... It is their love for me that helps me every instant of my life. Jesus is my support and my strength. I love and accept all my sisters—those here in Italy and those abroad, those in the missions and those chosen to open our new foundations. I believe that I too am a missionary—that is why I love everyone.”

Sr. Celestina carried out capillary diffusion in Palermo, Grosseto, Livorno and Rome, but the work that we identify most closely with her is the cinema apostolate, which she carried out with great dedication in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Salerno, Catanzaro and Rome. Over the years, she took many courses to help her better understand films and use them competently in cineforums and in proclaiming the Gospel. She worked for 20 years (1960-1980) in the Study Center of the St. Paul Film Agency of Rome, carrying out her responsibilities generously and zealously. Following this she was transferred to Pavia, where she spent another 20 years serenely serving the sisters of the community.

To commemorate the 60th Jubilee of her religious profession (made in Rome on 10 Feb. 1939), she wrote: “I am immersed in God, who is love. It is he who called me to be a member of the beautiful choir of Pauline apostles. How much I love the Congregation: all my dearest sisters and superiors! I carry them all in my heart and this makes me happy. I believe and I love—there is nothing more beautiful than this. I love my Congregation. I am so small that no one sees me, but I am perfectly happy here and I will remain here until my definitive departure, when the Lord in his goodness and mercy will call me.... I feel that I am truly a Pauline—that I belong to Paul!”

In 2003, Sr. Celestina was transferred to Alba, where she continue to pray and offer herself to God for all the needs of the Church and world. On the occasion of our 8th General Chapter, she wrote to the delegates: “I am close to you in prayer and faith as you begin the Chapter. Be courageous for the glory of God: courageous in the apostolate, with a burning desire to help Jesus save many souls. It was he who said: ‘Do not be afraid.’”

This is Sr. Celestina’s message to all the Daughters of St. Paul throughout the world. She wanted to embrace each one of us and she carried us in her heart. Today, her message is directed in a special way to the FSPs gathered in Sao Paulo, Brazil for the Continental Meeting to redesign our presences in America. Her life is a message of hope to them, encouraging them to look courageously to the future. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parezan
Vicar General

Rome, 11 May 2010