

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

At 1:30 this afternoon, the risen Christ visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to call to his eternal light our sister:

**DEMONTIS PIETRINA – SR. MARIA FLAMINIA
born in Barumini (Cagliari), Italy on 12 September 1921.**

Sr. Flaminia had heart problems and had been wearing a pacemaker for about ten years. But even though her heart was fragile, it burned with love for the Pauline mission. On many different occasions, she expressed her missionary ardor with phrases such as, “My heart is filled with fire...” “I feel a fire within me that fills me with joy, happiness and zeal.” Sr. Flaminia lived every stage of her Pauline life with this fire in her heart. She entered the Congregation in the community of Nuoro at the height of World War II on 4 Jan. 1944. In 1945, at the end of the war, she was sent to Rome and then returned to Cagliari to enthusiastically disseminate the Gospel. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1948. In 1949, after a brief apostolic experience in Salerno, she left for the United States, where she carried out capillary and collective diffusion for more than 25 years in the community of Youngstown (Ohio), our first local community in the States.

In 1974 she returned to Italy, where she continued to joyously carry out the apostolate in the St. Paul Film Agency of Rome, and after that in the Sassari and Trent book centers. In 1992, she was transferred to Pordenone, where she was asked to perform various community services. On that occasion, she wrote: “I’m 70 years old but my heart is young and my mind still dares to dream big. I continue to think that there is still time for me to spend a few years in the missions....”

When the Congregation launched its Missionary Project, she rejoiced at this sign of openness to new horizons and hoped she would be chosen to be a part of a group that would found a community in Eastern Europe. She wrote to the Superior General: “I renew my offer to the Lord and I thank him for having called me to this missionary Congregation. My missionary life continues and I am happy because I share in all the works of my Institute. Wherever there is a Daughter of St. Paul, I am there too. I participate in all the good accomplished by the missionaries of my Congregation.”

And, in the context of the Institute’s Missionary Project, the moment finally arrived for Sr. Flaminia to fulfill her dream. Her new destination was Nairobi, Kenya. Brimming over with happiness, she wrote: “I want to spend all the days the Lord will grant me in thanksgiving and self-offering for the gift of life and of my Pauline vocation. I want to spend this last stage of my life for the Congregation, for the intentions of my superiors, in simplicity and, as much as I can, in the service of our young sisters, our hope for tomorrow, so that they will live the Pauline charism in this great Africa and the Gospel will reach the ends of the earth as quickly as possible.”

Sr. Flaminia arrived in Nairobi in 1994, where at first she was assigned to the distribution agency. But she was quickly transferred to the sewing room to make habits for the newly-professed sisters. In 1996, she wrote: “I am always very happy. I am trying to live this last stage of my life in gratitude for the gifts the Lord continues to bestow on me. My heart overflows with joy and I pray the same is true of every Daughter of St. Paul.” In January 2006 Sr. Flaminia returned to Italy for good and was assigned to the Albano community, where her ever-young heart continued to throb with ardor for the beauty of the apostolate and the wealth of the Pauline spirituality. She also rejoiced in the missionary activities of her sister, a Pastorelle missionary in Peru and Chile. Up to the end of her life, Sr. Flaminia continued to offer herself for Africa, seeking to make a concrete contribution to the Pauline mission there by collecting funds to cover the formation and studies of our young candidates, whom she loved very much. Yesterday her fragile physical condition took an unexpected turn for the worse and within a very brief time the moment arrived for our good Father to repay our sister’s great hunger and thirst to see his Son and dwell with him forever. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 17 April 2013