



Dearest Sisters,

At about 8:00 this evening, one of our sisters, hospitalized in Regina Apostolorum Hospital, Albano, Italy, “fell asleep in the Lord”:

**DI MICELI CALOGERA (LINA) – SR. M. GIUSEPPINA
born in Favara (Agrigento), Italy on 27 December 1940.**

Sr. Giuseppina’s entire life was profoundly conditioned by suffering due to her chronic poor health. In fact, it was precisely because of this that she was transferred to the Thecla Merlo community of Albano in 1985, just a short time after the community had opened. At that time, she was in pressing need of continual assistance and special care after having undergone several major operations on her intestines and heart. But in spite of her fragile physical condition, Sr. Giuseppina willingly and joyfully lent a hand in the community in whatever way she could. She often assisted other sick sisters, plus she carried out the services of driver, errand-runner and sacristan. About 7 years ago she contracted a serious blood infection that required her to be hospitalized repeatedly and that obliged her to take high quantities of cortisone and antibiotics. But by this time Sr. Giuseppina had learned to “work around” her health problems and she managed to lead an almost normal life in spite of everything. She bore the burden of frail health without complaint and serenely offered God her situation, which day by day became more trying. In these last years, she was forced to give up driving, but every day she would walk from the Thecla Merlo community over to the Queen of Apostles Hospital to visit the sick Daughters of St. Paul hospitalized there. She was fully aware of her own precarious situation and was ready at any moment to leave everything so as to follow her sole treasure, Jesus Master, just as she had done so many years ago when she first responded to his call.

Sr. Giuseppina entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 16 Feb. 1959. She spent the period of her initial formation first in the Via Antonino Pio bindery and then diffusing the Word of God in Naples. She returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary on 30 June 1963. Her novitiate year was a very memorable one because it was marked by the opening of Vatican Council II. She and her 60 co-novices rejoiced for the gift of this great event and even more fervently for the gift of the Pauline vocation, which gave them the chance to dedicate all their energies to the Institute’s mission in the Church.

As a young professed, Sr. Giuseppina took the Word of God to the families and businesses of the Puglia region, in particular the diocese of Lecce. She made her perpetual profession on 30 June 1968 in an intimate, memorable ceremony that took place at 7:00 a.m. in the Crypt of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary. No special festivities accompanied the event but she always remembered it as a beautiful, unforgettable moment, celebrated with great joy in the presence of the Founder, Blessed James Alberione.

In the years that followed, Sr. Giuseppina worked in the book centers of Cosenza, Benevento, Messina, Taranto and Perugia. From 1977-1980, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in Trapani, happy to be among the people of Sicily, her beloved “homeland.” She spent the last 25 years of her life preparing herself for the great day on which she would be called to the presence of the Lord so as to finally taste for herself the sweetness of his love and receive all that he had promised to those who are faithful to him.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan".

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General*

Rome, 16 August 2010