

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

around 7:30 this morning (local time) at St. Eugenio's Hospital in Rome, our good and merciful Father called to himself our sister

DI GIROLAMO GIUSEPPINA Sr M. PAOLA
born at San Giovanni in Galdo (Campobasso) March 17, 1943

Sister entered the Congregation in Alba, October 21, 1959 – 11 years after her sister, Sr. M. Celeste, who died in 1994. After a period of formation at the Mother House, she was transferred to Rome for novitiate, which concluded with her first Profession on June 30, 1963. She spent her juniorate in Milan, engaged in collective diffusion. After her perpetual profession, made in Rome in 1968, she was transferred to Como to carry out the apostolate of direct evangelization among the people, one well suited to her open and sunny character.

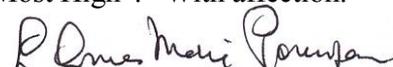
In 1970, she was allotted time for studies in Verona to complete her cultural formation. Immediately afterwards, she took up once again the itinerant apostolate in the diocese of Alba. She was then assigned to the Centro Missioni of the Generalate in Via Laurentina. She delighted in the universality and the missionary nature of the Congregation, and several times offered to give a hand in some of the foundations abroad, while always open to accept the will of the Lord manifested through the Superiors.

She spent ten years – from 1975 to 1985 – in the Pauline Centers of Grosseto and Bari, sharing, together with her competence, the joy that filled her life. Happy with her apostolic experience and desiring to be better prepared to respond to the challenges of the mission, in 1985 she was given the possibility of a period of updating, while part of the community at Via dei Lucchesi, 4th floor. She then accepted with availability and faith, service as superior of the communities of Benevento and Potenza. After another ten years or so in the Pauline centers at Albano and Terni, she was again called to the office of superior at Terni, during a period of particular suffering due to the closing of the community and the passage of the book center to laity. Sister was then placed in charge of the book center at Roma Castro and that of Via Antonino Pio while living in the “Divine Master” community. Her conversations were always animated by her preoccupation to reach everyone with the proclamation of the Gospel; when she shared the challenges of evangelization, her words were on fire.

The last years were marked by great and deep suffering due to a severe form of myelodysplasia, a form of leukemia that seriously hindered her healing after a knee operation which she had undergone with great trust. Repeated surgeries were unsuccessful, as was in these last few weeks a muscle transplant in an attempt to strengthen the prosthesis.

Sister spent these last days in the continual hope for healing, but also in a spirit of self offering that became always more conscious. She never tired of assuring us of her prayers for the intentions of the Congregation: she truly felt herself to be a lamp lit, burning with love and passion, a candle that was slowly consuming itself and releasing the perfume of a Pauline life given unconditionally for evangelization.

In spite of her long illness, the Lord came to meet her in an unexpected way. Last Sunday, due to breathing difficulties, perhaps caused by an added bout with bronchial pneumonia, she was brought to the emergency ward at Saint Eugenio's Hospital and admitted to the intensive care ward. The doctors did not seem very worried, but today, Ash Wednesday, became for her “the favorable time, the day of salvation”. And promptly she repeated the “Yes” of perpetual Profession when she had written with her own hand, “I want to be docile and faithful, always available in the hands of the Lord”. In presenting her to the Father for the eternal Profession, we ask Sr Paola to remember the countless intentions she carried in her heart and to continue to intercede for all of us “before the Throne of the Most High”. With affection.


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan
Superiora generale

Rome, February 10, 2016.