

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

At about 3:30 p.m. today, the Good Shepherd visited Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to lead to his verdant pastures our sister:

**FACCHIANO SILVIA – SR. LEONTINA**  
**born in San Leucio del Sannio (Benevento), Italy on 10 April 1919.**

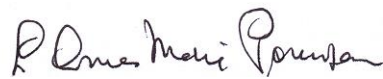
Sr. Leontina responded to the Lord's call without going through any agony: her sturdy heart simply stopped beating. It happened so quietly and serenely that the sisters gathered around her bedside thought she had simply fallen asleep. Sr. Leontina had been transferred to Queen of Apostles Hospital just 8 days earlier from the nearby Thecla Merlo community because a sudden heart attack had worsened her physical condition. Up to the very end, she had participated fully in the life of her community, manifesting a tactful concern for each sister. Although she was 90 years old, Sr. Leontina's mind was still very sharp and she loved to recite the many poems she had learned over the years. She went to meet the Lord very peacefully, with the readiness to do his will that had characterized her all her life. In fact, in 1969 she wrote to her provincial superior: "You know better than I do my physical, intellectual and moral capabilities, as well as my shortcomings, so please use me however you think best for the greater glory of God. I realize how incapable I am of carrying out an apostolate as vast and sublime as ours, but I trust in the Lord, who protects the small and the weak."

Sr. Leontina entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 15 May 1932, just a few months after the entrance of her sister, Sr. Rufina. After spending a few years carrying out the propaganda apostolate in Grosseto, she returned to Rome in 1938 to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 10 February 1939. During World War II, she lived and worked in Cesena and Benevento, where she disseminated the Word of God to the people. During these difficult years, Sr. Leontina and the other members of her community experienced more than once the special protection of God. One example: in September 1943, they were saved from the bombs that destroyed the building in which they were staying. Chronicles of the times say that the sisters did not even have the essentials to meet their daily needs but the Lord compensated for this by blessing their apostolic activities. All their initiatives met with great success, especially the Gospel Days they organized, which were welcomed by the people and served to strengthen their faith. Our sisters did not see their poverty as an impediment but as a source of unity, joy and spiritual progress.

In 1952, Sr. Leontina was transferred to Palermo, where she continued to carry out the propaganda mission with great zeal. In 1961, she was asked to collaborate with a new apostolic activity: that of the cinema. Assigned to a St. Paul Film Agency, she spent her days double-checking the hundreds of films returned each week by the movie houses and parishes. She carried out this work in the communities of Catanzaro, Cagliari, Sassari, Livorno and Trent, patiently sliding "miles" of film through her hands as she carefully checked the celluloid for damage. Sr. Leontina performed this apostolate with an upright spirit, convinced of the words of Maestra Thecla: "It is not important if we are filled with limitations because those limitations attract God's mercy."

In 1988, Sr. Leontina was transferred to the Capodimonte community, Naples, where she spent the next 13 years spreading peace and goodness to everyone around her. She serenely accepted her declining health, happy that she was able to do what she could in the community, convinced that no service is "small" in the eyes of God. In 2001, her worsening health made it necessary to transfer her to the IV Novembre community of Albano and from there to the Thecla Merlo community. We thank this dear sister for all the good she sowed among us in her lifetime and we entrust her to the tenderness of the Good Shepherd, asking him to lead her to the waters of eternal life.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 4 May 2009