

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

At 7:30 a.m. today, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community (Via Antonino Pio), Rome, Italy to call to the Kingdom of Heaven our sister:

**FORNARO MARIA MARGHERITA – SR. MARIA TERESA  
born in Pulsano (Taranto), Italy on 30 September 1925.**

Sr. M. Teresa was truly a wise woman, who at every moment of her life built her house on the rock of the Word and obedience to the will of God.

She entered the Congregation in Rome on 29 Nov. 1946 at the age of 21, following in the footsteps of her two sisters, Sr. M. Emma and Sr. Margherita, who preceded her in the religious life.

After a period of initial formation, she made her novitiate in Rome together with her sister, Sr. Margherita, and concluded this stage of her Pauline journey with her first profession on 19 March 1950. Following this, she carried out the apostolate of capillary and collective diffusion in Campobasso, Rome and Trieste. After her perpetual profession in 1955, she was sent as a missionary to the United States. Stationed in the Staten Island community, she courageously faced the difficulties of learning a new language and working in a cultural context very different from her own. The following year she was transferred to Langley, Great Britain, to lend a hand with the “propaganda” apostolate.

In 1963 Sr. Teresa returned to Italy, where she spent a short time in the communities of Bologna and Rome. In 1965 she once again left as a missionary, this time for Africa. In Kampala (Uganda), Lagos (Nigeria) and Kinshasa (Congo), she took the Gospel with great love to families and collectivities. But the climate and heat of the Congo weakened her organism and in 1968 she had to urgently return to Italy, where she was sent to Albano to receive the care she needed. The following year, restored to health, she was sent to Siena to carry out the diffusion apostolate, and later she collaborated with the Society of St. Paul by helping out as a typist in their Publishing Office in Via Alessandro Severo, Rome.


The 5 years Sr. Teresa spent in direct contact with Fr. Valentino Gambi left a profound mark on her life. She perceived that the service she could provide even as a typist placed her at the heart of the Pauline vocation and prompted her to seek an always better cultural preparation. She had the opportunity to collaborate with the FSP province’s catechetical office in Via Antonino Pio, as well as with its central apostolate offices, especially in the field of documentation. She also took care of mailing out our Pauline magazines and contributed, as a driver, to the different needs of the large FSP community of Rome.

In 1981, Sr. Teresa was transferred to the branch house of Ravenna. Returning to Rome a year later, she was assigned to the shipping department and carried out other services, especially in the secretary’s office. She was happy when she could make herself useful to our Pauline sisters and brothers by typing their theses and by preparing manuscripts for the press. In her senior years, she joyfully discovered what she could achieve by computer and the small laptop on her desk became her inseparable friend.

In 2010, Sr. Teresa was moved to the infirmary wing of our Divine Providence community, Rome because a severe form of deforming arthritis was causing her great pain and impeding all her movements. She accepted the impossibility of any type of autonomy with peace and complete availability to God. At first constrained to a wheelchair, she spent the last three years of her life in bed. Her strong and energetic character gradually softened and she surrendered herself to the will of God with tenderness and love. She continually thanked everyone for every care, every visit and every attention that was offered her.

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Apostle Paul, his words, which today became the concrete experience of this dear sister, resound with particular strength: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” The crown of justice that the Lord promised to bestow on those who lovingly await his manifestation is now ready for Sr. Teresa.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 27 June 2019