

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

Today, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Blessed Virgin visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to accompany to eternal life our sister,

FREPOLI MARIA – SR. PIERINA
born in Ronco di Godi (Piacenza), Italy on 27 August 1920.

A short note written by Sr. Pierina several years ago captures her simplicity, humility and practical outlook on life, and also reveals her firm and clear desire to embrace the will of God in silent and operative self-offering. The note reads:

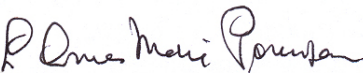
“The Lord has granted me a long life and the chance to spend the first part of it carrying out the diffusion apostolate, followed by many years here at Albano, initially working in the hospital and then serving as wardrobe mistress and performing various community services. I am very happy in my vocation. The Lord has always helped me in difficult situations. Now I am old, I have health problems and perhaps before long the Lord will be calling me to himself. Thinking about my death, I want to ask a favor of you all: I don’t want flowers or testimonials. Instead, please pray for me and have a Mass celebrated for me and my loved ones. If possible, I would like to be buried at Castagnito. I have a very reserved character and I prefer to focus on essentials so what I request corresponds to my genuine desires. My heartfelt thanks to everyone.”

Sr. Pierina entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 23 October 1939 and was soon sent to carry out the apostolate of capillary diffusion of the Word of God in Benevento. She returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1943. For the next 30 years, she traveled the roads of Italy, her propaganda bag overflowing with books which she joyfully disseminated to families, schools and businesses in the dioceses of Benevento, Novara, Udine, Cremona and Ferrara.

During World War II, Sr. Pierina was stationed in Benevento. The city was heavily bombed, forcing the sisters to take refuge in the nearby town of San Leucio, where they experienced divine protection. Because their house was destroyed by the bombs, they spent the next 6 years struggling to meet even their most basic needs, but at the same time the Lord blessed their apostolic activities and made them very fruitful. How many Gospel Days they held in those years! Sr. Pierina carried the people she met in her heart and prayed that the Word of God they diffused so widely would penetrate the lives of the families they visited. In 1969, in response to a letter of her provincial superior asking what type of apostolic activity she preferred to carry out, Sr. Pierina wrote: “For my part, I would always choose propaganda—an apostolate I have always carried out with great fervor. I love my vocation and am very happy to be a member of our beautiful and dear Congregation.”

In 1972, Sr. Pierina was asked to give up the propaganda apostolate so as to double-check films in the St. Paul Film Agency in Vercelli and then in Turin. In 1980, she was assigned to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, where she spent the last 30 years of her life working in the kitchenettes in the various wards of the hospital and then carrying out community services such as refectory and laundry duties and wardrobe maintenance. In everything, she witnessed to a life of poverty and a focus on the essentials. Her simple and fervent relationship with the Lord and his Blessed Mother pervaded every aspect of her life.

At the beginning of January 2013, Sr. Pierina broke her leg, leading to a progressive decline in her health. She spent the last weeks of her life in silence, suffering and prayer, preparing to welcome her Lord and Master who today invited her to “touch the hem of his robe” and enter with him into full communion with the Trinity. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 11 February 2013