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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that the Lord called one of our sisters to eternal life while she was taking care of her sister in San Siro Foce (Genoa), Italy:

GINOCCHIO EMILIA MARIA – SR. MARIA CARLA
born in San Siro Foce (Genoa), Italy on 27 July 1925.

Sr. M. Carla entered the Congregation in Alba on 6 June 1945. She underwent her initial formation in the Motherhouse, where she worked primarily in the technical apostolate. After her vestition, she was sent to Genoa to carry out capillary diffusion and then to Rome to make her novitiate. This stage of her formation concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1948. Except for a brief period in the sector dealing with books from other publishers, Sr. M. Carla dedicated herself with apostolic passion to work in our Brescia book center for almost 15 years. The sisters with whom she collaborated say she was a competent and well-loved member of the book center team—a person who was attentive to the needs of the people and who treated them with great respect. In the years that followed, she continued to diffuse the Word of God from the “pulpit” of the FSP book centers of Cagliari, Mestre, Bergamo, Pavia, La Spezia and Massa.

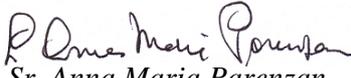
In 1969, she wrote to her provincial superior: “Through my profession, I have given all that I am to the Lord and the Congregation. I am striving to do everything possible to always be available to him, through my superiors. The only thing I have to continually do is try to remain faithful to my vocation. If I am faithful, then there are no longer choices to be made because God does the choosing for me.” Deeply convinced of this, Sr. M. Carla accepted in a spirit of docility God’s will that she carry out the service of superior in the communities of Belluno, Ravenna and Massa. In this role, she proved to be a person who readily accepted others and who was able to infuse community life with an atmosphere of joy.

But the Divine Master had other plans for Sr. M. Carla’s life: he asked her to demonstrate her fidelity to him by caring for needy relatives. In fact, from 1994 up to her death, Sr. M. Carla lived in her hometown of San Siro Foce, where she lovingly assisted first her brother and then her sister, both in extreme need of help. Sr. M. Carla dedicated her life to her siblings, renouncing what she considered to be one of the maximum benefits of her religious consecration, namely: community life. She yearned to return to one of our local communities but she could not ignore the situation of her brother and sister, for which there was truly no other human remedy than her ongoing presence. And so, day after day, she grew old along with them, continuing to care for first her brother, then her sister up until almost the last day of her life. Sr. M. Carla profoundly felt her identity as a Pauline and each year, in presenting her request for a renewal of her leave of absence, she also renewed her silent and anguished self-offering to God. She rejoiced to receive information about what was happening in the Congregation and the updating aids sent to her. And for as long as her strength permitted, she participated in the life of the local parish, assiduously attending its liturgical celebrations and faithfully making her hour of adoration there.

It was part of the mysterious plan of God that the small town of San Siro Foce be blessed with presence and testimony of Sr. M. Carla. In fact, the memory of the Daughters of St. Paul is still alive in that town because several FSPs took refuge there during World War II and ran the risk of being executed for having interceded for a group of Italian partisans (guerrilla fighters) who had killed several German soldiers. The entire town risked being destroyed and probably was spared because our sisters’ intercession before the German authorities.

We are sure that Sr. M. Carla will continue to pray and intercede for her hometown. May the seed of her life, falling into its soil, revive the Christian life there and bless the Church and our Congregation with a fresh wave of holy vocations.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 15 October 2014