

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

At about 2:30 a.m. today, our merciful Father visited the infirmary of our Alba, Italy community to call to himself our sister:

**GRAGNOLATI ADELINA – SR. GIUSEPPINA
born in Montemarzino (Alessandria), Italy on 15 November 1921.**

Sr. Giuseppina was transferred to Alba 30 years ago following a stroke that left her unable to walk and she remained a member of that community up to the end of her life. She lived those many years in a wheelchair with great serenity, in profound union with her Lord and Master. With the passing of time, she also became almost totally blind but this did not prevent her from making the effort to faithfully read and study the Constitutions in the light of the commentaries found in the booklets that the whole Congregation is currently using for reflection.

Sr. Giuseppina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 17 Jan. 1945. She was 24 at the time and thus was considered an “older” vocation. The chronicles of the times recount that two sisters from the Tortona community walked 18 km. to Adelina’s hometown on an intensely cold day (the snow was 20 cm. high) in order to accompany her to their community. World War II was still in progress and Sr. Mansueta Chiesa remembers that their journey was very perilous since the only vehicles on the streets were jeeps filled with soldiers who raked the roadside with bullets as they drove by. The second leg of the trip—from Tortona to Alba—was also made with discomfort and hardship. Sr. Mansueta’s memoirs continue: “It was so cold that our legs felt frozen stiff but we were light-hearted because we were bringing a new ‘flower’ into the Congregation.”

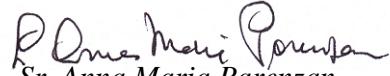
After a period of apostolic experience in Lodi, Adelina was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1948.

When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of religious profession in 2008, Sr. Giuseppina wrote the following litany of graces received: “When I said yes to the Divine Master on the Feast of St. Joseph 1948 in Alba, I certainly didn’t think I would live long enough to see this day. So today I want to say, *thank you*, Master: you have always been faithful to me and I have tried my best to be faithful to you in spite of my insufficiency in everything. *Thank you* for the gift of the many sisters who accompanied me over the years of my religious consecration. *Thank you* for the gift of the Pauline apostolate, which I carried out in many different ways. *Thank you* for all the beautiful experiences in my life that made me rejoice. *Thank you* also for the problems, sufferings and fatigue that I experienced. *Thank you* for allowing me to know Blessed James Alberione and Prima Maestra Thecla. *Thank you* for your mother Mary, whom I love, honor and pray to under the title of Queen of Apostles. How many times I have turned to her for support and comfort! *Thank you* above all, my Lord and Master, for the fact that I have always felt accompanied, protected and loved by you.”

Sr. Giuseppina spent her long life doing good and irradiating peace and serenity wherever she went. She spent her first years as a professed sister carrying out the propaganda apostolate in Como and Lugano. In Milan, she carried out the service of doorkeeper; in Alessandria and Tortona she worked in the book center; in Lugano, Aosta and Turin she performed various domestic duties. With great generosity she also took a leave of absence from the Congregation for several years to care for her elderly and ailing mother. Sr. Giuseppina was a sister who focused on essentials, who carried out her responsibilities readily and generously, and whose primary concern was to faithfully respond to the love of the Lord.

In his Providence, God the Father called our sister to himself in the heart of the night, silently and gently, without attracting the attention of the night nurse who had just left her bedside. In accord with his loving plan, Sr. Giuseppina, who was “predestined to share the image of his Son,” has now been called to rejoice with the saints for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 26 October 2011