



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

At about 5:45 p.m. today, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Alba, Italy community to lovingly call to himself our sister:

GUIDI MARGHERITA – SR. MARIA RITA
born in Varzi (Pavia), Italy on 27 September 1926.

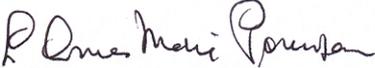
Although Sr. Rita's health had been very precarious in these past days due to serious heart problems, her passage to eternal life nevertheless took place unexpectedly—while she was at supper. She did not experience any agony and did not let out a single cry. We like to think that the Lord, in his infinite goodness, took her to heaven in keeping with her lifestyle: that of a strong and energetic woman totally dedicated to the Pauline mission—a woman who had truly “left all” for the cause of the Gospel and never turned back.

Sr. Rita entered the Congregation in Alba on 29 Oct. 1949, preceding her sister, Sr. Miriam, by several years. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1952. Even before her profession, she had begun to travel the streets of Italy, disseminating the Gospel in a very winning way. She carried out this apostolate for more than 30 years in Voghera, Genoa, Naples, Salerno, Potenza, Rimini, Alessandria, Alba and Biella—communities whose members still remember her apostolic zeal, human warmth and organizational skills. She loved the propaganda mission and helped many other sisters to love it by involving them in her passion for the apostolate and her ability to communicate with the people she met. Sr. Rita was fascinated by the experience of the great Apostle Paul and, like him, she wanted to make herself “all to all” so as to proclaim to everyone the Love that had seized and conquered her. Many anecdotes could be recounted in this regard but we will mention here only one: a letter written to *Famiglia Cristiana Magazine* by a young woman who wanted to track down Sr. Rita. It seems that one day Sr. Rita had asked the woman to help her unload a large consignment of packages of *Famiglia Cristiana*, unaware that the woman was going through a desperate moment in her life. The woman now wanted to thank Sr. Rita because she said that that contact with her had saved her.

Sr. M. Rita dedicated herself with equal enthusiasm and love to another type of evangelization: that of transforming herself into *Good News* for many sick FSPs in need of help. In fact, Sr. Rita carried out the service of nurse and physical therapist for more than 25 years in the communities of Via Antonino Pio and the Provincialate (Rome), as well as in Naples and Palermo. She channeled all her energy into this work, carrying it out with great skill and a rare ability to suggest to the sisters the proper therapies to follow and the specialists they should consult. And she continued to serve our ailing sisters tirelessly even after her own health began to fail. One cannot help but smile when glancing over the apostolic assignment card she filled out for 2007-2008. Next to the word “job,” she had written: “invalid and part-time physical therapist.” We can truly say that as long as this dear sister had even the slightest energy she continued to dedicate herself to others without reserve.

When she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of profession in 2002, Sr. Rita confided that she had experienced the comforting presence of Jesus Master very profoundly and had heard him speak to her in a soothing voice. With heartfelt gratitude, she wrote: “I sing because my life is a participation in the life of God. I sing because God exists and I have met him! I sing because God loves me and I know it! I sing because God is joy, beauty and infinite Love. I sing because God is freedom and in him I am free. I sing because today the Church is celebrating a special rite for me, promising me the hundredfold on this earth and eternal life. I sing because I love both heaven and earth. I sing because I was born into a beautiful family and grew up surrounded by a deep love for the Faith. I sing because I have dear friends. I sing because Mary, Queen of Apostles, has taught me her *Magnificat* so that I can use the right words to thank God the Father for the gift of the Pauline vocation, which makes me a member of this “admirable Family” and enables me to collaborate in the apostolate of social communications.”

And we too add our voices to Sr. Rita's hymn of praise, joyfully thanking God for the overflowing love he is pouring out today on the Church, the Pauline Family and each one of us: a love that reflects the abundant riches with which he continues to bless us. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Secretary General

Rome, 13 October 2012