

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

At 6:40 p.m. yesterday one of the sisters in the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community fell asleep in the Lord, concluding a long Pauline life brimming over with experiences and self-offering:

**LALLAI PASQUALINA – SR. ELIGIA**  
**born in Sant’Andrea Frius (Cagliari), Italy on 19 September 1914.**

Sr. Eligia was only two months short of celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday—a goal she was determined to reach—and in spite of her fragile health there was every expectation that her desire would be fulfilled. Even though she found it very difficult to speak, her voice would regain vigor whenever sisters reminded her of the years she spent alongside Maestra Thecla and she would exclaim: “How much love she always showed toward me!”

Sr. Eligia entered the Congregation in Cagliari on 17 May 1936. She was 22 years old at the time and brought with her a “trousseau” consisting of her great sense of responsibility and the ability to carry out almost every type of service, especially that of seamstress. In fact, in presenting her to the Institute, her pastor wrote: “She is a competent seamstress and her skills could be put to good use immediately.” Sr. Eligia made her first profession in Rome on 19 March 1943, after having spent several years as a propagandist in Grosseto, Cagliari and Nuoro. In Nuoro, she was a big help to the sisters who had just opened that community.

After her profession, Sr. Eligia was sent to Salerno. World War II was at its height and in writing about that period of her life, she described what it was like for the sisters to live under carpet bombing and to be forced to flee from place to place for safety, joining the crowds of people who had taken refuge in the hills. In concluding her narrative, she remarked that it was truly miraculous that all the members of the community came safe and sound through the many disasters that marked those years.

In 1945, Sr. Eligia returned to Nuoro, where she first carried out the diffusion apostolate and then was appointed superior of the community. Afterward, she was asked to work at the reception desk in the Generalate community, which was then located in Via Antonino Pio. This was a memorable period for her because it gave her the chance to live alongside Prima Maestra and establish what she called “a very beautiful relationship” with her. As a driver, Sr. Eligia also had the chance to accompany Maestra Thecla and Fr. Alberione on their frequent trips to and from Albano in those years. She looked back on those times with joy but above all she treasured her memory of the love with which M. Thecla supported her when she underwent a risky liver operation in 1956.


In 1966, Sr. Eligia was appointed superior of our Foggia community, after which she worked in the kitchens and sewing rooms of Milano, Alba, Genoa, Cicogna and Rocca di Papa.

In 1981 she was transferred to Albano, the community in which she was to spend the rest of her life. She carried out the service of sacristan in the hospital’s chapel for many years, and she continued to make a valid contribution in the sewing room as long as her health permitted. She also prepared special meals for the sick members of the community and then fed the ones who required this assistance. Sr. Eligia loved community life and was very attentive to the needs of everyone. Her words were always positive and uplifting. She felt a strong sense of belonging to the Congregation and took every opportunity to express her gratitude to God for the gift of her Pauline vocation.

About 7 years ago, she was transferred to the San Raffaele (infirmary) wing of the Albano community, where she continued to maintain her positive outlook and was always willing to share with others her memories of the many wonderful things the Lord had accomplished in her long life.

We thank the Lord for Sr. Eligia—a truly “strong woman” after the pattern of the woman described in the Bible: a person forgetful of self and dedicated to others; a woman with complete trust in the Lord—one who allowed him to lead her along the paths of a new vocation in the Church.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 19 July 2014