

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

Surrounding her with the affection of sisters, friends and benefactors of the community of Charleston, U.S.A., at 3:30 this morning the Father of Light called home to heaven our sister:

LIVINGSTON CECILIA REGINA – SR. CECILIA PAULA
born in Orange (California), U.S.A. on 18 February 1954.

A few days ago Sr. Cecilia's sister, Sr. Jane, superior of the Charleston community, wrote: "Sr. Cecilia Paula is waiting for the Lord. She has placed her life in his hands and is offering everything for the many needs of the sisters and of the Pauline mission. She says over and over again, 'The only important thing is holiness of life and mutual love. Compared with this, nothing else has meaning.'"

The attitudes of self-surrender, serenity and peace were hallmarks of the life of Sr. Cecilia Paula, a sister whom the United States Province could always count on for her maturity, feeling of belonging to the Institute and desire to make the most of the gifts with which the Lord had enriched her life. She entered the Congregation in the community of Boston on 15 June 1973. She made her first profession in Boston on 27 June 1976, followed by her perpetual profession five years later. Almost immediately afterward, she began to carry out the apostolate of capillary diffusion in Staten Island and New Orleans. From 1981-1984 she was in charge of the Boston typography, after which she was appointed superior of St. Louis. At the end of her term of office, she returned to Boston, where she once again worked in the typography, while at the same time serving as formator and teacher of the postulants.

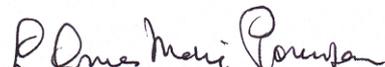
So as to carry out her apostolic activities more competently, she participated in the International Course for Postulant Formators held in Rome. Returning to the United States, she deepened these studies by taking summer courses for formators. Sr. Cecilia was aware of how positive these experiences had been for her, not the least because they helped her grow in courage, hope and greater interior freedom. She expressed her yearning to "repay" in some way all the resources that had been invested in her formation. When the Congregation launched its "Missionary Project," she indicated her willingness to carry out the Pauline apostolate wherever there was need in the English-speaking world. During that period, she received the gift of being asked to accompany the formation journey of 3 young Chinese religious, members of a local Congregation in China, who were living a period of updating in our Boston community. Sr. Cecilia Paula rejoiced to make this small contribution to improving the quality of the consecrated life in China. She was very hopeful that those religious would in the future be able to help the Pauline Family reestablish its presence in that immense country.

In 1996, Sr. Cecilia was appointed superior of the Boston community. When her term of office ended, she was made bursar of the Staten Island community and then was asked to manage the Alexandria book center. Wherever she went, Sr. Cecilia Paula radiated a profound joy that sprang from her intimate relationship with the Divine Master. With an attitude of self-surrender, in 2006 she accepted the need to assist her sick and elderly parents, taking a leave of absence from the Institute for this purpose. But while she was at home, she was diagnosed as suffering from cancer. Repeated chemotherapy cycles did not improve her condition, which she accepted with great tranquility while continuing to take care of her parents.

Last November, Sr. Cecilia asked to re-enter the Congregation, in spite of the fact that her parents' situation had not improved. The cancer undermining her system was moving ahead aggressively and she wanted to live the last period of her life in a Pauline community, where she could feel "alive" up to the very end. Up to almost the last, she took advantage of Skype to remain in touch with her family, friends and the people of Charleston, who rallied around her with great solidarity. A few days ago, even the mayor of the city dropped by to thank her, on behalf of all Charlestonians, for her beneficent presence among them and for the contribution of her prayers and self-offering.

For us too, Sr. Cecilia Paula is a shining example of peace and self-surrender. We are sure that from heaven she will continue to intercede for all her loved ones, for her province, and for all those whom the Lord entrusted to her great apostolic heart.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 11 March 2011