

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

At about 9:30 yesterday evening, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to his kingdom of light our sister:

LOVATO AUGUSTA – SR. MARIA NAZARENA
born in Locara (Verona), Italy on 13 October 1922.

A few days ago, Sr. M. Nazarena came down with a fever, undermining her fragile physical condition, which was already consumed by her advanced age and many years of labor in the Pauline apostolate. But up until the last moment of her life she was lucid and aware of what was going on around her.

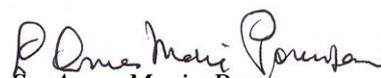
She entered the Congregation at the age of eleven in the community of Verona on 19 March 1933 and underwent her first years of formation in that house. Afterward, she was sent to Alba, where she happily worked in the technical apostolate. Given her youth, she also carried out the “propaganda” apostolate in Turin before beginning her novitiate in Alba. She concluded this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1941. World War II was raging across Europe at that time but the Daughters of St. Paul continued to generously carry out the Pauline mission in spite of the many dangers involved. Sr. M. Nazarena spent the war years in Ferrara, where she and the rest of her community experienced the protection of the Lord in ways that many times bordered on the miraculous. One such occasion was the day the Ferrara bell tower was bombed because it housed anti-aereo equipment. The courageous FSPs, who were in the building at the time, escaped unscathed by sliding down the bell tower on a rope because the entrance to the building was blocked.

In Ferrara, Sr. M. Nazarena learned the book center apostolate. In the years that followed, she carried out this mission in many cities of Italy (Aosta, Vercelli, Biella, Grosseto, Tortona, Pavia), distinguishing herself for the goodness, kindness and hospitality she offered everyone who came in. She wanted each client to breathe not only the pleasurable aroma of books and films but also the sweet fragrance of Christ, characterized by serenity, peace and prayer. In fact, Sr. M. Nazarena was a woman of profound prayer and great faith, and the communities in which she served as superior were the first to benefit from this. As local superior in Ferrara, Aosta and Grosseto, she was deeply loved for her simplicity, humility and uprightness. She was never afraid to say what she thought or to call attention to attitudes that were not in conformity to the religious life. Her modest but firm attitude made a favorable impression on young women, who were drawn to her witness of life and enthusiasm for the Pauline mission. When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession in 2001, she wrote: “I can never thank the Lord enough for the gift of my vocation, and the Congregation for all the help it has given me in these years. Everything is a grace.”

Sr. M. Nazarena truly felt herself to be a daughter of Fr. Alberione and Maestra Thecla, who were her models and points of reference. The warm and affectionate notes that M. Thecla sent her illuminated her journey: “Everything for God, for the Blessed Mother and for souls. Have great trust in the protection of the Blessed Virgin.”

In 2004, Sr. M. Nazarena’s advancing age made it necessary for her to leave her beloved Aosta and the book center that had been the “pulpit” from which she preached. She was first assigned to Turin, where she carried out many domestic services that increased the warmth and family spirit of the community. From there, in 2007, she was transferred to Alba, where she spent the last years of her life in silence, peace and communion with the Lord.

Like Abraham, Sr. M. Nazarena never doubted the promises of God. Like our fathers and mothers in faith, she firmly believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises. Now she too has become a “mother in faith” to us, a witness to the things in which she believed, an apostle like Paul, who believed and therefore spoke. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 21 October 2013