

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,

At about 8:00 this evening, Jesus Master visited our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

MAGRI MARIA – SR. ANGELA
born in S. Eufemia della Fonte (Brescia), Italy on 29 June 1922.

The last two years of Sr. Angela's life were a true Calvary for her. Afflicted with a severe case of Alzheimer's disease, she gradually lost every form of contact and communication with the outside world. Reduced to skin and bones, she was no longer able to eat, speak, see or hear. But although she was immersed in the mystery of suffering, we believe that Sr. Angela continued to thank and praise the Lord and offer herself to him because her entire life had been lived as a hymn of love and self-surrender to God.

Sr. Angela entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 22 June 1941. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1944. On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee of profession, she wrote: "I feel a strong desire to belong completely to the Lord. I can say with joy that I have always been ready to do his will, that I have always tried to say 'yes' to him by carrying out any work asked of me simply and serenely, in the firm belief that the secret of holiness lies in self-renunciation. I thank the Lord for broadening my heart to love everyone, even if this love has at times been marked by suffering and misunderstanding. I rejoice because I feel that the Lord is close to me and that he loves me. In my poverty, simplicity and weakness, I renew my 'yes' to him. Mother Mary, lead me to Jesus. I want to become a saint—not by doing big things but by taking advantage of the small opportunities presented by daily life."

These words allow us to glimpse the life and personality of this dear sister, whose sole goal was to do the will of God. After her profession, Sr. Angela carried out the "propaganda" apostolate in Brescia, Treviso and Trent. Following this, she worked in the book centers of Belluno, Vercelli and Cremona. From Cremona, she wrote to her provincial superior in 1969: "My only desire is to do the will of God as fully as I can and to become a saint. Therefore, I am at your disposition."

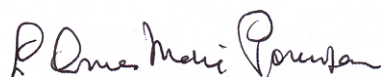
From 1970-1988, Sr. Angela was a member of the Naples/Capodimonte community, where she worked in the book center and carried out household duties with great generosity. From 1988-2003, she was stationed in Verona, where she held various offices, including that of local bursar.

On the vigil of the beatification of Fr. Alberione, Sr. Angela's health had deteriorated to the point that it was necessary to transfer her to our Motherhouse in Alba. There she continued to carry out small services such as sweeping rooms, pushing wheelchairs and helping the infirm sisters for as long as her strength permitted. Her deepest yearnings were transformed into the prayer: "Here I am, Lord! I place my entire being in your hands and in those of Mary. Please sanctify my mind, will and heart." What sustained her was the profound conviction that "the important thing is to love others and to spread peace and joy everywhere."

Sr. Angela's self-offering to God rose like a sweet perfume to heaven—a silent expression of the desire she had engraved on the back of the holy card printed for her Golden Jubilee: "I offer myself to you, Lord. May your Spirit transform me into a flame of perennial joy."

Sr. Angela loved to pray the Word so we are sure that today's Gospel reading would have filled her with joy. After allowing her to spend years in the "desert" of silence and self-oblation, today the Lord not only let her "touch his cloak" but he also took her by the hand and led her to heaven, where she can now experience his benevolence and love for all eternity.

Affectionately,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 5 July 2010