

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

We share with you that around 12:45, in the infirmary of the community of Alba, our Merciful Father called to himself our sister

MANA GIOVANNA Sr. M. GABRIELLA
Born in Savigliano (Cuneo) on April 3, 1922

Sr M. Gabriella belongs to a piedmontese community of great faith that enriched the Church and the Pauline Family with several priestly and religious vocations. Following the example of her sister, Sr. M. Ester, entered the Congregation in the house of Rome on December 5, 1938. Immediately upon entering, Sr M. Gabriella went to Genzano, where the Pastorelle sisters were making their first communitarian and apostolic steps. She lived in Genzano for eight years and in 1946 she definitively was transferred and lived among Daughters of St. Paul, in the house of Rome. Here she lived her novitiate and made her first profession on March 19, 1948. Right away, she began to carry out the Pauline apostolate in the bookcenter in Crema and for eleven years near the St. Paul Agency in Brescia. She professed her perpetual vows in Rome on the feast of St. Joseph in 1953, a few days after the definitive pontifical approval of our Institute. Certainly the vibrant words that the Founder pronounced on that occasion penetrated her heart: «Live the Pauline life, that is, be truly Paulines (Sampaoline). It is your specific way to reach sanctity; it is your specific way to live the evangelical counsels....It is the only, sure, easy and shining way of holiness.»

Sr. M. Gabriella felt the desire for total self giving through the mission *ad gentes* and after three years as superior in Bolzana, she left for the community of Lima, (Perù). A very significant photograph of that departure has been saved in which, kneeling on the ground at the port of Naples, she receives the blessing of her brother and nephew, both priests. The history of that time recounts that precisely due to the intensity of the emotions, the bag that she was holding on to, which also contained her passport, flew into the ocean and was recovered in an incredible way.

In Lima, she practiced Spanish and was soon able to lend a hand in the bookcenter. In 1965 she was transferred to Colombia in Central Bogota, in order to carry out the service of superior. At the end of her mandate, she joined the delegation of Venezuela that also included Puerto Rico and then alternated for shorter or longer periods of time between the communities of Central Caracas, El Hatillo, Rio Piedras (Puerto Rico) here too dedicated to the role of superior.

On the occasion of the missionary project, she expressed all her joy over the Congregation's choice to open itself up to new boundaries. With availability and realism she wrote to the superior general: «I confess that I wish I could be 20 years younger so as to be able to offer my contribution.....given my incapacities, I have no choice but to place in the hands of the Lord and of the superiors my poverty, like the coin in the hands of the widow in the Gospel. As I give thanks for the Pauline vocation and for the time of grace that I have lived in these 29 years of missions in Latin America, I offer this, my poverty, so that in the Congregation, many generous souls might be enabled to respond to the missionary call.

In 1996 she returned definitively to Italy in order to continue to give of herself with great love in the community of Borgo Angelico (Rome) and in that of Alba. At Casa Madre she carried out the duty of sacristan and she dedicated herself to our sick sisters. But soon enough also she began to need help due to Alzheimer's disease and other complications that little by little developed. For some years, her physical condition was very precarious and of course, while the Lord granted her clarity, she continued to offer herself for the apostolic and vocational needs of the nations in Latin America where she had offered herself for an extensive period of her life. In these last days, a pulmonary edema further complicated her already difficult physical condition and guided her directly to the encounter with the Father. We think of her already surrounded by the Pauline Family in heaven where she has met her sisters and her brothers that were so dear to her. With affection.


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicaria generale

Rome, March 5, 2012.