

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 1:00 this morning, the risen Lord visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community to call to eternal light our sister:

MANNINI ROSA – SR. MARIA GRAZIA
born in Agerola (Naples), Italy on 17 August 1922.

Sr. Maria Grazia was a dear sister who always dedicated all her energies to God and the Congregation with great love and a spirit of generous availability. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 7 Dec. 1932, arriving from Salerno, where she had spent several months helping the sisters carry out the propaganda apostolate. She was only 10 years old at the time but, as she later wrote, she joyfully accepted the “beautiful adventure” of a vocation to the religious life. In Alba, she was assigned to the typography and linotype. She became an expert typesetter—a work she carried out for the next 8 years. In 1940, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding with her first profession on 19 March 1941. After a brief apostolic experience in Salerno, she returned to Rome to continue the typographical apostolate. She wrote: “The work was very intensive. I remember in particular the book, *The Acts and Talks of Pius XII*: what a lot of volumes that series had! Then there was the *Statistics on the Protestants in Italy*: it took a lot of time to print that book. In fact, we often worked far into the night. But we did the job courageously and our efforts were crowned by an audience with Pope Pius XII!”

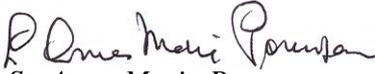
Sr. Maria Grazia was a great gift to the Generalate community, where she lived for more than 30 years (1970-2002). Many of our sisters throughout the world remember her kindness, her love for the Pauline vocation and for her superiors, and the many services she carried out in the secretary’s office, at the switchboard, in the shipping department and in the Institute’s picture archives. In fact, it was she who organized and launched the General Archives’ picture department—a sector she then developed with competence and discretion. For Christmas 1992, she offered the Superior General her full support of the Congregation’s Missionary Project, saying: “On this holy night, my ‘yes’ to the Lord is a sign of my readiness to embrace the personal and communitarian renewal we have been invited to undergo. I feel the need to give new thrust to my consecrated life and to live in a greater spirit of joy and trusting self-surrender to God so as to better witness to my vocation. I also want to keep our new mission lands in my prayers and self-offering.”

On 14 May 2000, Sr. Maria Grazia wrote what could be called a summary of her life, in which she said: “I am profoundly grateful to the Lord for the gift of consecrating me to himself and also profoundly grateful to the Congregation that not only welcomed me but accompanied me through all the stages of my life. I ask forgiveness for everything I might have done to prevent myself or others from loving the Lord more fully. I entrust myself to the infinite mercy of the Father and to the prayers of my sisters, asking them to offer suffrages for me after my death. From heaven, which I hope to reach through the immense and extraordinary mercy of the Lord, I will offer my poor prayers of intercession for everyone. Thank you, sisters, from the bottom of my heart.”

In 2002, Sr. Maria Grazia’s declining health made it necessary to transfer her to the Thecla Merlo community of Albano. In 2005, she was moved from there to the San Raffaele wing of the hospital. She realized that her condition was incurable—that no medicine could stop the gradual deterioration of the cells of her cerebellum, provoking a severe loss of balance. In spite of this, she continually said: “I accept my situation and I will live with it for as long as it pleases the Lord.”

While we entrust our sister to the arms of our heavenly Father, we also want to thank her very sincerely for her presence among us, which was a sign of the infinite beauty of God.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 6 May 2009