

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,

We received the news that at 8:40 p.m. local time yesterday, the Lord visited our Las Orquideas community of Bogota, Colombia to call to himself a great Pauline missionary:

MARCHISIO GIUSEPPINA – SR. MARIA TARCISIA
born in Borgomale (Cuneo), Italy on 20 March 1926.

The oldest of ten children, Sr. Tarcisia entered the Congregation in Alba, Italy on 10 May 1944. She made her novitiate in the Motherhouse, concluding it with her first profession on 29 June 1946. During her Juniorate, she studied philosophy and theology in Rome and then, in August 1950, while still a temporary professed sister, she was sent as a missionary to Colombia. The sisters there were living the difficult years of the Institute's foundation period and Sr. Tarcisia was immediately entrusted with the group of aspirants in Manizales, our first house of formation in Colombia. On the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, 1951, she and Sr. Imelda Toschi made their perpetual professions in Bogota. That same year, in keeping with a directive of the Founder, the formation community was transferred to Bogota. While the Las Orquideas house was under construction, the group lived in rented lodgings and Sr. Tarcisia carried out the roles of formator, local superior and delegation superior (a period in which our communities of Colombia and Venezuela formed a single circumscription).

In 1961, Sr. Tarcisia returned to Italy and spent several years in Alba and other communities regaining her health. In 1976 she was able to return to Colombia to resume her mission of spreading the Gospel among the poor, whom she deeply loved. She said: "When I returned to Colombia, the provincial superior asked me to find ways to respond to the sisters' desire to carry out the Pauline mission among the poor. At that time, I had just received an invitation from a Sacred Hearts Sister to participate in the meetings of the catechetical commission of the Colombian Religious Conference. An updating course was held for religion teachers and catechists and an audiovisual center was set up to foster an updated and integral formation in this field."

To provide audiovisuals at modest prices, Sr. Tarcisia started a video rental center that made the FSPs of Colombia leaders in this field for many years. They opened many audiovisual centers in parishes, schools and universities. Sr. Tarcisia's great concern was always to reach the poorest people, especially the street children. Her charitable outreach to this particular group led her to also promote the adoption of some of these children by families in Italy.

Aware of the need to study so as to be able to "break the bread of the Word" for others, Sr. Tarcisia fully understood what it meant to belong to a Congregation that carries out a teaching mission in the Church and thus she lovingly studied ecclesial documents and used them in her work. In 1993, when the Institute launched its Missionary Project, she generously offered her collaboration, writing: "I feel at home in the video department, where I spend most of my time, but I also have experience in the areas of pastoral work and bookkeeping. I like languages. I do not study as a hobby but because study is essential to the Pauline apostolate. I think I could help to open a community in a new nation." She was not asked to carry out this service but continued to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to the various apostolic activities requested of her. She had a great talent for correcting page proofs and also made an important contribution to the editorial sector through the preparation of liturgical texts for the annual agenda published by our Colombian circumscription.

Sr. Tarcisia channeled all her energies into the Pauline apostolate until the gradual advance of Alzheimer's disease led to her physical and mental decline. When she was no longer able to write, she continued to serenely lend a hand in the technical apostolate, where she offered the younger sisters the witness of how beautiful and urgent she felt the Pauline mission to be. Her smile and shining eyes, together with her goodness, will always remain a precious legacy to the sisters of our Colombia-Ecuador province.

A few weeks ago, Sr. Tarcisia was hospitalized due to serious lung problems but on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul she was able to return home. She drew her last breath surrounded by the affection and prayers of all the members of her community, who loved her very much and whom she deeply loved in return. Like a candle, Sr. Tarcisia's life continued to radiate warmth, light and the sweet perfume of Christ up to the very end. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome 27 January 2014