

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

At about 3:30 yesterday afternoon, the Father visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community to call to himself our sister:

MARIOTTO ITALIA – SR. PIERPAOLA MARIA
born in S. Stino di Livenza (Venice), Italy on 4 October 1935.

In the last two years, Sr. Pierpaola's life was literally consumed as a holocaust pleasing to God. In 2008, she was diagnosed as suffering from a rare form of muscular sclerosis. Called S.L.A., the disease progressively atrophied her muscles to the point that she could no longer speak, move or take care of her personal needs. At first she was able to at least move her hands to point to the letters of the alphabet set out on a table before her to spell out her needs. But little by little, as the paralysis advanced and her motor skills degenerated, even this small "independence" was lost. Unable to communicate with the external world, only her eyes testified to the fact that her mind was still keen, that she was aware of what was going on around her, and that she longed to feel that she was still part of the community she loved so much. Her mode of communicating was reduced to tears and screams, which not only revealed the depths of her suffering but also her yearning to remain connected to the sisters with whom she had shared so many years of Pauline life.

Sr. Pierpaola entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 24 May 1950. In 1953, she was sent to carry out the diffusion apostolate in Udine. She returned to Rome in 1954 to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1955. Afterward she was transferred to Bologna, where she carried out various apostolic activities. In 1956, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency of Rome, which rented films to parishes, schools, institutes, associations, prisons, etc. From 1974-1978, she carried out the same apostolate in Turin. These were the "golden years" of the Pauline cinema apostolate and Sr. Pierpaola, filled with zeal, rejoiced to participate in its activities.

In 1978, she was called to make a big transition of life when the Superior General asked her to accept a transfer to Albano, which was going through a time of particular need. Sr. Pierpaola said *yes to* this call of the Lord and made a valuable contribution to the community through her generous service at the reception desk and in the hospitality sector. Her dignified bearing and innate kindness made her an ideal person to welcome visitors to the hospital and help them find their way around. Although not a registered nurse, Sr. Pierpaola carried out various services in the hospital wards. To expand these services, she took a 2-year course in pastoral work with the sick and received a diploma in this field in 1989.

In 1995, another stage of her life began when she was asked to carry out secretarial duties in the hospital's nuclear medicine sector. Sr. Pierpaola carried out this work with a great sense of responsibility and was highly esteemed by everyone for the serene atmosphere she created around her. She possessed the innate ability to make herself "all things to all people" through her kindly presence and smiling assistance. She not only fostered by example a more intensive collaboration among the sector's personnel but was also ready to meet every need and to smooth out problems with appointments.

In the community, she was a beautiful presence: a person always ready to animate the liturgy, take an active part in community meetings and dialogue with others. As in the apostolic sector, here too she spread serenity, kindness and wisdom wherever she went. Sr. Pierpaola continued to be a precious gift to the community in the last years of her life, during which she fecundated the "soil" of our Queen of Apostles Hospital with her sufferings. We are sure that her life, marked so profoundly by the cross, will now obtain many graces and consolations for all the people both inside and outside the Congregation whom she assisted with great benevolence for over thirty years.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 20 July 2010