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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

During Easter Week, another of our sisters, a member of our Alba, Italy, community, left us unexpectedly as the result of a heart attack:

**MARTINI MARIA ANGELA – SR. MARIA GABRIELLA**  
**born in Spercenigo (Treviso), Italy on 6 February 1928.**

Sr. M. Gabriella had been a member of our Verona community for more than 30 years. But a bad fall, resulting in a broken leg, made it impossible for her to get around any longer so just a week ago she was transferred to the infirmary wing of our Motherhouse in Alba. She accepted the transfer serenely, happy to return to the community that had welcomed her into the Congregation on 26 September 1945. When a nurse stopped into Sr. Gabriella's room at 2:30 this afternoon to help her get out of bed, she found her with her rosary in hand, immersed in the sleep of death.

Sr. M. Gabriella was a good and generous sister who had dedicated her entire being to God in simplicity, humility and a spirit of availability exercised on a daily basis. In 1969, she wrote to her provincial superior: "As for me, I have never asked for anything. I've always tried to do my best in every situation. I am well aware than the apostolate we carry out calls for gifts that I don't possess..." In reality, Sr. Gabriella lived her Pauline vocation with heroic love. Love was the great priority of her life. In her personal writings we find the note: "1<sup>st</sup> thing: love; 2<sup>nd</sup> thing: to let myself be loved and to ask Jesus what he wants of me; 3<sup>rd</sup> thing: to communicate love without a lot of words."

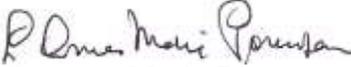
After a period of initial formation in Alba and Bologna, where she carried out primarily "door to door propaganda," Sr. Gabriella was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1949. Her letter asking to be admitted to perpetual profession summarizes very well the driving force of her Pauline life: "I am happy to have embraced this vocation. I feel that I am truly on the path the Lord has chosen for me.... I know I am very weak but I will try to follow that path with great good will and to complete my formation with the help of my heavenly Mother."

Sr. Gabriella spent her Juniorate in La Spezia, where she continued the apostolate of capillary diffusion. She was then appointed errand-runner of the big Alba community. Afterward, she returned to the diffusion apostolate, this time in Livorno, where she was always ready to "go out" to spread the light of the Gospel to even the most remote farmhouses. Following this she was assigned to our Mestre community, from which she commuted to work in our Venice book center. She then returned to Livorno and in 1985 was transferred once again, this time to Verona, where she remained up until the last week of her life.

Sr. Gabriella knew how to "win hearts" by showing love and mercy toward everyone she met, especially the numerous benefactors who, knowing her, were easily convinced of the beauty of the Pauline apostolate. But Sr. Gabriella also diffused goodness and understanding in her community, where no one ever heard her utter words of judgment or criticism. She drew her love from her long hours of adoration before the Eucharist, where she contemplated the life of Jesus in the Gospel. In fact, one of her resolutions was to "remember during the day the Word of God I listened to and meditated on in the morning." She wanted to reach always greater union with God and wrote with deep passion, "Jesus is always with me."

Now Sr. Gabriella "touches" and contemplates the risen Christ, and has received eternal peace from his hands personally.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 31 March 2016