

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

The Divine Bridegroom visited our Albano, Italy community in the middle of last night to call to himself one of our sisters to participate in the eternal wedding feast in heaven:

MATTUZZI MARIA - SR. MARIA VERITAS
born in Cellore d'Illasi (Verona), Italy on 23 November 1937.

For some time now, Sr. Veritas had been retired from active service in Queen of Apostles Hospital due to her steadily declining health. In fact, several years ago she underwent heart surgery twice, followed by a very delicate operation her spinal column. In each instance, the risk of death was high. But in spite of her fragile health, Sr. Veritas lovingly participated in the life of her community. It was commonplace to see her smiling and serene at the bedside of the hospital's patients or walking in the hallways of this busy health-care center, where she had worked for more than 45 years.

Sr. Veritas entered the Congregation in the community of Verona on 29 October 1960, following in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. Philomena, who had preceded her in the Pauline vocation by four years. The sisters also had a brother (now deceased) who was a Franciscan missionary in Japan for many decades. Sr. Veritas underwent her initial formation in Alba and Como. She made her novitiate in Milan, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1964, just a few months after the death of Maestra Thecla. As a young professed, she carried out the Pauline apostolate in Alba. In 1967, she and several of her co-novices were asked to accept a transfer to our Albano clinic to work as practical nurses. Considering the maturity of Sr. Veritas and her aptitude for serving the sick, she was soon offered the chance to study nursing at Fatebenefratelli Hospital, Rome, where she earned a degree as a registered nurse in 1977.

From 1978-1981 (a time in which our Albano community was a still Province), Sr. Veritas served as provincial councilor. For almost 20 years she was head nurse of the surgery ward in Queen of Apostles Hospital. The skill and love with which she carried out her duties, placing the needs of the patients before all else, earned her the esteem of all the doctors and lay workers in that sector. When declining health forced her to retire from active duty, she volunteered to help in the outpatient department—carrying out various jobs there up until just a year ago.

Sr. Veritas successfully integrated her work as a nurse with her life as a Pauline. She was always faithful to her daily encounters with Jesus Master, arriving in chapel at dawn so as to begin her day with a heart filled with the Word and nourished by the Eucharist.

Known to everyone for her goodness, generosity, rectitude, wisdom and dedication to the sick, Sr. Veritas reached great maturity in her Pauline vocation, expressing her love for the Congregation through deeds more than words. Up to the last few days of her life, she continued to visit the sick members of her community in the infirmary wing and also the FSPs who were patients in the hospital proper. She prayed with these sisters, encouraged them, supported them in their sufferings and kept many of them company during the critical moments of their illness, manifesting her love in countless quiet but concrete ways.

According to his unfathomable designs, the Lord called her to himself suddenly last night, while she slept. But we are sure that he had already prepared this dear sister for her entrance into eternal life, where she will now remain at his side forever, enveloped in his peace. May Sr. Veritas be even now rejoicing in the love of the Lord, savoring to the full the intimacy and joy of his presence.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 5 November 2012