

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

At about 2:45 last night, the Divine Master visited the Alba infirmary to call to the joy of his kingdom our sister:

**MEDAGLIA ROSA – SR. MARIA MARGHERITA  
born in Ville Mamertino (Brescia), Italy on 3 July 1921.**

Sr. M. Margherita entered the Congregation in Alba on 3 Dec. 1941 in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. Gaetanina. She made her postulancy in Brescia, where she carried out capillary diffusion. When it was time for her to leave for Rome to make her novitiate, she had to take her chances in traveling because World War II was still in progress. Her adventurous journey to the capital took ten days....

Her novitiate group was a large one because during that time many young women were entering the Congregation, resulting in a great explosion of vitality and creativity. Sr. M. Margherita made her first profession in Rome on the 20 August 1946, the Feast of St. Bernard and the day on which the Pauline Family looked back to its humble beginnings. In keeping with the example of this Pauline “Bethlehem,” Sr. Margherita’s religious life was always characterized by simplicity and humility. In her request to be admitted to profession, she wrote: “I am prepared to carry out any office: propaganda, housework—whatever is assigned to me by obedience.” As a young professed, she spent several years in Brescia carrying out the propaganda apostolate. Afterward, she lived for more than 20 years in the Divine Providence community of Via Antonino Pio, Rome where, with great generosity, she performed various services for the sisters, including that of “cobbler” because in those days even the shoes the sisters wore were “homemade.”

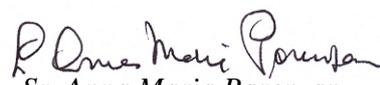
In 1971, Sr. M. Margherita began a new stage of her Pauline journey. Assigned to our Albano community, she spent more than 30 years working in the hospital laundry. The sisters who lived with her remember her as a quiet, shy and very hardworking sister. If one met her while walking down the hall, one received the impression that Sr. M. Margherita wanted to melt into the background so as to be unnoticed and not disturb others.

A perfectionist in performing her duties, she saw to it that the clean laundry she prepared for the community and for hospitalized FSPs was always ready on time. Sr. M. Margherita was a serene presence in the community, always ready to lend a hand wherever needed or to do someone a favor. She never expressed any personal needs but instead showed her gratitude for all she had received from the Congregation through concrete deeds. Those who stopped to talk with Sr. M. Margherita experienced the wealth of her kind and affectionate spirit.

Several years ago, she was diagnosed as suffering from Parkinson’s disease. Moved to the San Raffaele wing of the the Albano community, she spent more and more time in her room as the malady progressed. But Sr. M. Margherita wanted very much to die in Alba—the community she had joyously entered at the age of 20 and in which her Pauline vocation had developed—and she also asked to be buried there. So in spite of the fact that it was hard for her to leave Albano and the sisters with whom she had lived for so many years, Sr. M. Margherita welcomed the chance to go to Alba and lived the resulting detachment in peace and silence. As her malady advanced more aggressively, she offered her sufferings for the many intentions she carried in her heart. And today respiratory blockage finally freed her to enter the realm of eternal light. In the climate of this Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent, Sr. M. Margherita truly found refuge in her Lord, surrendering herself to him with immense love.

We are sure that Mary, Queen of Apostles, to whom she prayed unceasingly, accompanied her as she hastened toward the outstretched arms of the Father of mercy.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 9 April 2011