Dearest Sisters,

At about 6:00 this evening, the Lord visited the Queen of Apostles wing of our community of Alba, Italy to call to heaven by way of an unexpected heart attack our sister:

MELIS SR. TERESINA
born in San Gavino Monreale (Cagliari), Italy on 6 November 1927.

Sr. Teresina entered the Congregation in the community of Nuoro on 10 July 1948. She underwent her initial formation in Rome, concluding her novitiate with her first profession on 19 March 1952. Afterward, she was sent to Terni to carry out the "propaganda" apostolate. Following her perpetual profession in Rome in 1957, she dedicated herself with great love to the book center apostolate in Ravenna and Venice. In 1966, her delicate health made it advisable to transfer her from the direct apostolate to community services, where she worked above all in the sewing room.

In 1969, she wrote to her provincial superior: "On the day of my profession, my greatest desire was to go to the missions and to carry out the propaganda apostolate for many years, if that was God's will for me. Because of poor health, I had to give up propaganda and learn to serve people through the book center. My desire to do the will of God as fully as possible intensified and I renewed that desire with even greater ardor on 19 March 1957, the day of my perpetual profession. Today I renew that desire yet again, this time not from the joy and satisfaction that springs from carrying out the apostolate but from the joy that springs from faith and obedience. I am happy and serene: holiness lies in this. I feel that I am a missionary and propagandist here in Palermo, carrying out whatever services are asked of me. I do my best to satisfy the needs of the sisters, even if I don't always succeed. Patience. A glance at the Tabernacle strengthens me and makes me feel more serene. Do whatever you want with me, because what you want is what God wants of me and my joy is to fulfill his will." Like Maestra Thecla, Sr. Teresina too wanted to please God by doing his will as manifested in the simple events of daily life.

In 1971, she was assigned to the Albano community, where she earned a diploma in practical nursing and where she worked for more than 20 years in the housekeeping and laundry departments. A good, kind and serviceable sister, she was sustained by the knowledge that she was doing the will of God in every situation. She offered herself to him for many intentions, especially for the people of Pakistan, where her sister, Sr. Lilia, carried out the Pauline mission. In 1993, she expanded her heart to also include the Czech Republic, after the Superior General asked her to pray in a special way for our Prague community, which had been opened as a result of the Congregation's "Missionary Project." Her self-offering to God for this intention was simple, silent and genuine: "I offer him each of my days, exactly as it comes to me."

In 1994, Sr. Teresina serenely accepted a transfer to the St. Joseph community of Alba, where she continued to offer herself to God humbly and quietly first in the technical apostolate, then in the laundry and housekeeping sectors. In 2007, due to her declining health, she was moved to the Queen of Apostles wing of the community. Sr. Teresina's physical condition continued to decline as various complications set in but up until this morning it seemed as if her heart was still very sound. However, this evening, when the nurse brought Sr. Teresina her dinner, she was shocked to discover that our sister had just taken her last breath.

In recalling the death of her father, Sr. Teresina had written: "He 'tiptoed' through life and 'tiptoed' into death. I hope everyone crosses to the other shore in the same way." This wish was fulfilled in her own life as she too tiptoed into eternity, saying 'yes' to the will of the Father in obedience, silence and peace.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 26 May 2010