

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

At about 10:45 this morning, one of our sisters in the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy, fell gently asleep in the arms of the Father:

MIGLIORINI TERESA
born in Fratta Polesine (Rovigo), Italy on 5 November 1911.

The oldest member of the Albano community, Sr. Teresa had celebrated her 98th birthday just a few months ago. Up until a few days ago, she could usually be found walking up and down the hallway of the San Raffaele wing of the house, greeting everyone with a big smile and nod as she continued her silent dialogue with the Master. Her quiet and recollected demeanor revealed the depths of her heart and her yearning to meet her Beloved. While taking these walks, she would once in a while stumble and fall, but she always got to her feet again and resumed her daily routine. Even the spill she took a couple of days ago seemed to be nothing serious. But a heart attack, perhaps triggered by that tumble, led to her meeting with the Spouse she had been longing to encounter face to face for many years now.

The Pauline life of this dear sister can be described as a tapestry of prayer, obedience, gratitude and joy, all interwoven into a lifestyle based on essentials. That tapestry was a masterpiece of grace, fashioned by the Holy Spirit with consummate skill.


Sr. Teresa entered our Congregation in the community of Alba on 31 December 1932. She was 21 years old at the time and thus was considered to be an “older” vocation. She was soon transferred to Rome, where she was assigned to the publishing sector. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 20 January 1938. Afterward, during the long years of World War II, she carried out the propaganda apostolate with great love and simplicity in the communities of Rome, Caltanissetta, Palermo and Trapani. In 1951, she was appointed superior of the Trapani community and at the end of her term of office she carried out the same service in Piacenza, La Spezia and Siena respectively. At the end of this period, she was made the manager of our Albano book center and also lent a hand with various community services for as long as her health permitted this. Sr. Teresa was well loved by her sisters because she herself loved them all deeply and treated them with great goodness. Whenever anyone would fall into idle gossip, her eyes would fill with tears and she would beg the person to stop because she felt that such behavior was unbecoming to consecrated persons. Very sensitive to others, Sr. Teresa was always prompt to emphasize the best in everyone and to encourage mutual edification.

The sisters who lived with her over the years say that she was a mystic, offering as evidence her constant recollection and deep spiritual life, which was truly her daily nourishment. Sr. Teresa prayed with childlike simplicity, trusting that her good Father would never abandon her. The words of the prophet Isaiah in today’s Liturgy can be applied in a special way to her: “Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.”

Sr. Teresa’s certitude that the Father held her in the palm of his hand caused her to radiate a joy that became her trademark. She felt that God carried her in his arms and for this reason she loved the hidden life and small things. She thanked him for everything from the bottom of her heart. A humble woman, Sr. Teresa was very faithful to the Pauline life, expressed through devotion to her daily duties. She was always happy to perform small services for the members of her community. She lived in a spirit of great authenticity and joy, faithful to her weekly encounter with the Lord in the sacrament of reconciliation. She would prepare for this sacrament a day ahead of time and would go to the chapel well ahead of the appointed hour, her confession written down on a piece of paper.

We are sure that the Lord found Sr. Teresa equally vigilant and ready for her definitive meeting with him and, when that moment arrived, that he led her into the intimacy of the Trinity. Now she is refreshing herself with his living Water and enjoying the fullness of his consolation and mercy.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 17 March 2010