

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

At 8:30 this morning, our merciful Father visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister,

MONTICONE ROSA – SR. MARIA GIACOMINA
born in San Damiano (Asti), Italy on 20 March 1915.

Sr. M. Giacomina passed to eternity quietly: at this point, her tired heart simply stopped beating. Although she had been bedridden for several months, her body literally consumed, she was alert, witty and joyful up to the very end, as she had been all her life. Just yesterday she confided to the sister who took care of her, “I’m content”: two words that offer us a beautiful summary of her life.

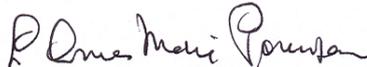
Sr. M. Giacomina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 25 March 1934. After a brief period of formation, she was sent to Pavia in 1935 and from there to Alessandria, where she carried out diffusion of the Word of God to the families. Those first apostolic experiences gave wings to her spirit and she became a passionate propagandist, deeply in love with the Pauline mission and convinced that she was a bearer of light to all the people she met in the cities and rural areas she visited.

She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 10 February 1939. Immediately afterward, she returned to Pavia, where she remained for almost 20 years. Her quick behavior, ready smile and open-hearted attitude were the qualities that people remembered most about her, especially the sisters with whom she lived and with whom she shared the same missionary ardor. Sr. Giacomina used a bicycle to reach even the most remote farmhouses, anxious not to overlook any of the people the Lord had entrusted to her apostolic heart. Like Paul, she felt it was her responsibility to take the light of the Gospel to everyone, and she had a word of consolation, peace and joy for every person she met. God often worked small miracles through her friendly personality: she would leave home with a bag filled with books and return with it overflowing with eggs, vegetables and other items pressed on her by the farmers she visited.

In 1958, Sr. M. Giacomina made an act of obedience that was truly a big sacrifice for her: she accepted the request to withdraw from the direct apostolate so as to dedicate herself to community services such as the kitchen, the laundry and other household chores. She carried out these duties in the communities of Milan, Novara, Vercelli and Biella, spreading love and good will wherever she went, and also manifesting her compassion for the downtrodden and her great love for the Local Church. It was a difficult change of pace for her but she embraced her new mission with the great faith that was always one of her defining features. In 1969, while stationed in Vercelli, she wrote to her provincial superior: “I am happy here even though the change from propagandist to cook put my apostolic zeal to the test. I was enthusiastic about every dimension of the propaganda apostolate: diffusing books and magazines, finding Pauline Cooperators and benefactors.... We were always able to find people willing to provide financial aid for vestitions and for our students. For me, this was a very great satisfaction. My dream was to help the propagandists from home, perhaps by visiting hospitals with our editions.... But the Lord wanted things otherwise and I am content. I can help save souls just as much through my renunciations as through a lot of talking and walking.... I have always offered this renunciation [of the propaganda apostolate] to help the sisters who carry it out on the front lines and also for the intentions of our superiors.”

In the local communities, and also in the St. Joseph and Divine Providence communities of Alba, where she spent the last 15 years of her life, Sr. M. Giacomina always radiated joy in her vocation, great sensitivity to the values of our Pauline spirituality and a steadfast striving for holiness. In 2006, wrote: “Thank you, Lord, for giving me an even stronger desire for holiness and even greater enthusiasm for the small things of life.” She compared the “new things” the Lord was bringing about each day to the situation of the sisters whom he was calling to “sprout anew” in heaven. Today, she herself has become this “sprout” of new life, heralding a new springtime in the Church and in the Pauline Family in which we too yearn to participate.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 5 March 2013