

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

At 3:15 p.m. today the Divine Master, his hand extended in blessing, visited the infirmary of our Motherhouse in Alba, Italy to lead to the pastures of eternal life our sister:

**MONTICONE MARIA TERESA – SR. MARIA ROSA  
born in San Damiano (Asti), Italy on 19 December 1925.**

Sr. Maria Rosa's health had been declining steadily over the last few months due to a malignant tumor that had spread to her intestines, liver and lungs. Her sufferings, especially during the past few weeks, were indescribable but in keeping with her habitual attitude of humility and self-offering, she accepted them without complaint, placing herself with great trust in the hands of her doctors and sisters. One of the last detachments she was asked to make was her transfer, about a year ago, from the San Giuseppe community of Alba to the Divine Providence community in the same compound. But for Sr. Maria Rosa, this too was part of the mystery of discipleship—an itinerary she had been following since she was very young.

In fact, she entered the Congregation in Alba on 10 September 1939 and immediately began to learn the “secrets” of the bookbinding and printing departments. Afterward, she spent a few years carrying out capillary diffusion in Bologna. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1951. Afterward she returned to Rome and from that time on, except for a few years in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, she was a member of our Alba community—the place of her daily, silent self-offering to the Lord.

The sisters who lived with Sr. Maria Rosa remember her attentive and generous assistance of members of the community suffering from especially painful illnesses. She possessed the gift of being able to soothe even the most grievous pains with the “oil” of her goodness. She could often be seen quietly and serenely crossing the paths of the large Alba compound, carrying medicines or hot beverages to the invalids. Her air of recollection revealed her intimate relationship with the Lord, from whom she drew the grace and strength to carry out the fatiguing service with which she had been entrusted and which she embraced with great love.

In 2007, Sr. Maria Rosa's precarious health made it necessary for her to withdraw from this apostolate and devote herself to work at the community's reception desk and to small duties designed to brighten the life of her community.

Sr. Maria Rosa deeply loved her Pauline vocation. When she celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession, she summarized her many decades as a Pauline with the words “Magnificat” and “Miserere,” her heart overflowing with gratitude to God. These two words were the secret of her life, lived in humility, hiddenness and profound joy.

Sr. Maria Rosa had assimilated profoundly the Founder invitation to his sons and daughters to live in a “divine atmosphere”: “Let us remove from our thoughts, heart and activities the things that Jesus did not do. Instead, let us put into our spiritual work, thoughts, feelings and will everything that Jesus taught us by word and example because he gives us the grace for these things.... This should be our spiritual work: to conform ourselves to the Divine Master and to do it such in a way that he lives in us and we live in him” (1959).

Sr. Maria Rosa's life in the school of our humble and kind Master became a true masterpiece of grace, a blessing for the Congregation, and the “sweet perfume of the Gospel” for everyone.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan'.

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 19 February 2014