

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

In the midst of our preparations with Mary, Queen of the Apostles, to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord once again visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community at 5:00 p.m. today to call to himself our sister:

MUSIZZANO MARIA – SR. MARIA SERAFINA
born in Torre Mondovì (Cuneo), Italy on 17 June 1921.

Sr. M. Serafina was a happy person. When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession, she wrote: “I am happy to be a Daughter of St. Paul. With all my heart, I love the Congregation and its apostolate, for which I have spent the most beautiful years of my life with zeal and love. I know my life is drawing to an end but I have no regrets. Nor do I have any great desires other than to use well the time the Lord gives me so as to become a better person.” And Sr. Serafina truly enriched her community with the breath of love, service, goodness and joy.

She entered the Congregation at the age of 19 on 10 April 1940 in the community of Alba, Italy. After several months of formation, she was sent to Brescia to carry out capillary and collective diffusion. In 1942 she began her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation journey with her first profession on 19 March 1943, at the height of World War II.

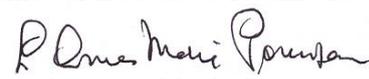
As a young professed, she continued to carry out the diffusion apostolate for about 10 years in Como and Crema. She was then sent to Naples to work in the book center. In 1962, after a short time in the Castro Pretorio community, Rome, she returned to the propaganda apostolate in the diocese of Reggio Emilia and then to book center work in Lodi.

Following another decade of service as an errand-runner in Naples, she was appointed superior of the Ariccia/Galloro community in 1977, and when her term of office ended she was asked to carry out the same service in Terni. Sr. Serafina was a much-loved superior who anticipated the needs of the sisters, provided for them and above all motivated them to cultivate a profound spirit of faith and apostolic zeal. In 1984 she was transferred to Alba to carry out various community services and to also run the small FSP summer community in Diano Marina. She later spent several years as cook for the San Giuseppe community, Alba until she was transferred definitively to Albano in 1994. Her friendliness and courtesy made her an ideal person to work at the hospital’s reception desk and to carry out other pastoral services in that health-care center. She was always happy to get to know the patients and their families, doing all she could to offer them good reading and encouraging them to receive the sacraments.

On the occasion of her 70th anniversary of profession, she wrote: “I want to thank the Lord for giving me the strength to reach this day. I thank him above all for all the graces he has granted me throughout my life and for having called me to be a part of the marvelous Pauline Family, which I have always loved and to which I have dedicated all my abilities, carrying out my apostolate with enthusiasm and joy. Right now, I have the chance to visit the hospital’s patients every day and I do this very willingly and with great love, bringing them a good word and inviting them to pray and receive the sacraments. I thank the Lord for this gift and ask him to help me witness to him to everyone I meet.”

Sr. Serafina had a special talent for forging strong bonds with the Congregation’s benefactors, who returned her kindness by providing the Albano community with a wide variety and abundance of consumer goods, especially fruit and vegetables. With an energy that totally belied her 90 years, she would often drive the steep Albano streets and surrounding areas to run errands and stop in to see friends and benefactors. In 2015, at the age of 94, she was finally obliged to surrender her mobile lifestyle and submit to the ministrations of the doctors and sisters of the San Raffaele wing of the Albano community. And today her good heart finally stopped beating on this earth so as to resume its work in heaven, where it now beats to the rhythm of God.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 1 June 2017