



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
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Dearest Sisters,

At about 8:15 p.m. today, our good Master visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy to call to live in intimacy with himself forever our sister:

**NICOLUSSI ANTONIA MARIA – SR. TERESA**  
**born in Rotzo (Vicenza), Italy on 4 June 1923.**

Goodness, kindness and fidelity are the words that best summarize the life of this dear sister, who reached the threshold of 96 years of age and 75 years of profession. A beautiful life, spent in silence and hard work, participating with her entire being in the praise of the Lord sung by the technical equipment in the big, noisy bindery of Alba, where she worked for over sixty years.

Sr. Teresa entered the Congregation in Alba on 18 December 1940—a time when the physiognomy of the Daughters of St. Paul was being forged to the rhythm of an intense and simple spiritual life based on the Word and the Eucharist. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1944. Afterward, she spent a year in direct contact with the people in the Verona book center, followed by a year in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Belluno and Rome.

Then, from 1954 up until her death, Sr. Teresa lived in Alba, where she made a big contribution to the bindery apostolate. She quickly learned the many aspects of bookbinding: how to run the folding and sewing machines, how to bind paperbacks, how to attach book covers.... More than 60 years of silent work, lived, as was her custom, in an atmosphere of prayer and serene industriousness overflowing with good fruit. She preserved in her heart the words of the Founder, which enriched her apostolic commitment with powerful motivations: “All your work of printing, binding and spreading the Word of God earns you abundant merits,” he declared, “while the sacrifice that accompanies your activities will result in an outpouring of grace on your readers. Yours is a sacred mission!”

In Alba, Sr. Teresa initiated hundreds of young women to the art of bookbinding, teaching them how to live the sacred dimension of this mission. They learned from her a genuine “apostolic mysticism,” namely: how to offer their fatiguing labors in the technical apostolate for the salvation of humanity.

Even at the age of 90, Sr. Teresa continued to collaborate with bindery work as much as she could. She wrote: “The Lord supports me, including when it is necessary to lend a hand at the folding machine. What to do? I have spent my life among these machines!” She was always striving to improve the quality of her work, saying: “In spite of the poverty of my being, it seems to me that I have always been able to find ways to renew myself in the apostolate....”

Sr. Teresa maintained her smile, kindness and serene gaze up to the last day of her life, spreading throughout the community a spirit of peace, joy and love for the Pauline vocation. Two months ago, declining health made it necessary to transfer her to the infirmary wing of the house, but her health progressively worsened primarily due to renal and cardiac insufficiency and, finally, a build-up of fluid in her lungs, which caused her death.

In these last days of the liturgical year, the Word of God illuminates the life of this dear sister and makes her an heir to the divine promises. Her humble life, rich in faith, is for all of us an invitation to reawaken and reinforce the charismatic motivations that lie at the root of our vocational choice. We entrust her to Mary, the Gate of Heaven and Queen of Apostles, asking her to welcome our sister to never-ending light in the realm of the saints.

With deep affection,

Sr.

*Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, 27 November 2019