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Dearest Sisters,

As the Liturgical Year draws to a close, the Lord has once more visited us, calling to himself from the Alba infirmary our sister:

**NOTA LUCIA – SR. MARIA ROSALBA**  
**born in Ceresole d’Alba (Cuneo), Italy on 23 March 1927.**

Sr. M. Rosalba entered the Congregation in Alba on 12 March 1946, following in the footsteps of her two older sisters, Sr. Angela and Sr. Lorenzina, and also several cousins. Several years later, her younger sister, Sr. Regina (who died last year), would also follow the same path in life. Like her sisters, Sr. Rosalba deeply loved the Pauline mission and generously carried out the Institute’s apostolate in different countries.

She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1949. As a young professed, she worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Turin and Verona. But in 1952, she was called to expand her heart and horizons beyond the borders of Italy so as to embrace the life and cultures of the American continent. In Staten Island and Boston, she dedicated all her energies to the demanding apostolate of capillary propaganda and made her perpetual profession in Derby, U.S.A., on 19 March 1954. From 1963-1973 she served as superior of the communities of San Antonio and San Diego. Then obedience called her to Puerto Rico and Venezuela, requiring her to undergo another major cultural shift. From Venezuela, she wrote to M. Ignazia Balla: “I can’t hide the fact that I feel like I’m in a new and completely different world with regard to people, customs and language.... It is like a ‘small death’ but I am happy and serene, trusting in the Lord who is present here too in our small but beautiful chapel. In prayer, I find the strength to live day by day, without worrying about what tomorrow will bring.”

Sr. Rosalba remained in Puerto Rico for 7 years, working enthusiastically and joyfully in the book center. In 1970 she returned to Italy but her missionary experiences abroad had not yet ended. She was almost immediately reassigned to Valencia, Spain—a transfer she accepted willingly, fired by the desire to do the will of God as fully as possible. Her focus on essentials and on responding generously to the Lord, combined with her love for the Word and for the peoples to whom she was sent, all helped her to courageously meet the inevitable problems of life.

After a time in Spain, Sr. Rosalba once more returned to Italy, where she was assigned to the book centers of Udine, Aquila, Taranto and Terni successively. She then served as local superior in Cosenza and Aquila, carried out the host-making apostolate in Livorno, and worked at the switchboard and reception desk in the Motherhouse of Alba. However, she continued to carry in her heart a deep love for the missions and so, when the Congregation launched its Missionary Project in 1993, she offered to go to any country in which English or Spanish was spoken. But the Lord was preparing a different path for her—the path of closer union with him through the mystery of the cross.

About 4 years ago, Sr. Rosalba was diagnosed as suffering from intestinal cancer. She was told that an operation was not possible due to the position of the tumor. The years that followed were filled with great physical suffering, which Sr. Rosalba accepted in a spirit of faith, allowing her sufferings to strengthen her union with the Master, conform her ever-more closely to him and prepare her for her definitive meeting with him. Two years ago she wrote: “The kingdom of heaven is awaiting me and that thought makes me very happy.”

In these days in which we are preparing to celebrate the feast of our beloved Founder, it comes spontaneously to us to imagine Sr. Rosalba standing on the “sea of glass” described in today’s Liturgy, while she sings with all the Pauline sisters and brothers who preceded her to heaven a new song to the Lamb, proclaiming all the marvels he works in those who entrust themselves to him.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 24 November 2010