

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

At about 6:30 this evening, our good Father once again visited our community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

OSSOLI IDA – SR. M. LAURA
born in Urago d'Oglio (Brescia), Italy on 5 December 1934.

Sr. M. Laura entered the Congregation in Alba on 30 May 1953. Moved by a profound desire to follow the Lord, who had called her to share his thirst for the salvation of humanity, she brought to her new Family the gift of her straightforward spirit, focus on essentials and the industriousness characteristic of the Brescian people.

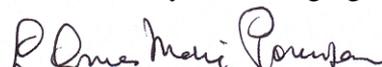
During her period of initial formation, she worked in the sewing room of Alba but later was sent to Reggio Emilia for a period of apostolic experience. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1956. As a young professed, she returned to Reggio Emilia, where she resumed the diffusion apostolate and also helped to hold Bible Days and Weeks in the parishes of that vast diocese. After her perpetual profession in 1961, she was sent to Bari, where she began the book center apostolate that would characterize the greater part of her Pauline life. In fact, except for two periods as superior (first in Trapani and then in Cosenza), she dedicated herself enthusiastically and wholeheartedly to the book center apostolate in the communities of Salerno, Palermo, Cosenza, Agrigento, Perugia and Treviso from 1967 up to just a few years ago.

Sr. M. Laura realized that the Pauline apostolate could be carried out more effectively through the cultivation of our human faculties so in 1969, when she received a letter from her provincial superior asking if she had any desires or suggestions with regard to her life and apostolate, she wrote back: "I do not have any difficulties or any suggestions to make. I am happy with my apostolate and with my community. Of course we all have our small problems but these are transitory and can be resolved with the help of the Lord through prayer. I don't have any particular desires with regard to studies, but I would be happy to participate in a few in-house courses, if this were possible."

Sr. Laura never asked for anything personally but instead dedicated herself with joy and simplicity to the needs of everyday life. She had learned from the Founder that our book centers are "churches" from which to preach the Word and offer it to people. From there, we learn to feel the needs of humanity and, consequently, to also feel our responsibility as apostles. Sr. Laura considered the book center's service desk to be a point of contact with the people: a place from which to offer formation to everyone, especially the seminarians and young priests who turned to her with great trust. Her humble, courageous, discreet and maternal attitude exercised a powerful attraction on them, as well as on many other book center clients. The sisters who worked with Sr. Laura in our busy Palermo book center in particular were aware that all the seminarians who entered the shop would gravitate immediately to her, seeking her wise advice and help in meeting the challenges that faced them. And Sr. Laura, who felt like a sister and friend to these future priests, would listen to their problems, suggest appropriate reading material, pat them on the shoulder and send them back to the seminary heartened and cheerful.

In 2008, Sr. Laura was delighted to be transferred to our newly-renovated Treviso book center. But her time of testing was drawing near. In May 2009, the first signs of Parkinson's disease began to emerge, leading to frequent visits to the doctor, various therapies and always more worrying medical reports. Because of her deteriorating condition, Sr. Laura was transferred to Alba at the beginning of 2012. She spent the last period of her life serenely, accepting with great dignity the advance of her illness without complaint and striving to assist her companions in the infirmary wing. In these last days, a lung infection hastened her meeting with her Lord and Master, the great Good of her life. Her earthly pilgrimage concluded, we are sure she has now joined her voice to the heavenly choir, singing the praises of God for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 7 August 2013