

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

In these last days of the liturgical year, the repeated calls of the Lord invite us to “stay alert.” At 4:30 this morning, he visited our Alba infirmary to call to himself our sister:

PACE MARCELLINA – SR. M. ROSARIA
born in Palma Montichiario (Agrigento), Italy on 15 July 1930.

Fifteen days ago, Sr. M. Rosaria suffered an unexpected blockage in her lungs and brain. After a brief stay in the hospital, she returned to her community but under very serious conditions. In fact, she spent her last days on earth in a semi-coma.

Sr. M. Rosaria’s life was always marked by suffering. Her mother died, leaving five young children: Marcellina was the fourth of these and thus one of the youngest in the family. She entered the Congregation on 19 March 1946 in Agrigento. She remained there for several months, not far from her family. Afterward she was sent to Rome, where she underwent the first stage of her formation and also worked in the bindery. As a postulant, she carried out the propaganda apostolate in Palermo. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. Sr. M. Rosaria was proud to be part of the group of novices who had the grace of celebrating their Golden Jubilee of profession on the occasion of the great Jubilee of the Church in 2000.

After her profession, Sr. M. Rosaria carried out the propaganda apostolate in Catanzaro, Messina, Caltanissetta and Trapani. She especially enjoyed visiting the hospitals with our Pauline periodicals, including the children’s magazine, *Il Giornalino*. She also carried out the service of driver very willingly.

Assigned to the Agrigento book center, she was stationed in this community at different times throughout her life. She also carried out the book center apostolate in Avellino and Messina. In 1978, she enthusiastically participated in a year of renewal in Alba. Called *A Gospel Experience*, the course left a deep imprint on her life and strengthened her joy at belonging to the Lord.

Following this, Sr. M. Rosaria was sent to La Spezia and from there to Salerno, Alba and Cosenza. Beginning in 1989, her declining health prompted her superiors to assign her to various household services, which she carried out in the communities of Livorno, Alba, Massa, Ariccia-Galloro and Albano (IV Novembre). In June 2006, she was transferred to the infirmary wing of the Motherhouse in Alba, where she was lovingly assisted by our sisters and lay personnel.

Sr. M. Rosaria gave glory to God through the simplicity of her life, through the many years she spent taking the Gospel from door to door, through her generous service in our book centers, through the various household duties she carried out and through her serene acceptance of a transfer to Alba, where she offered her failing health to God as a final act of love. And today, finally free of illness, she has joined her voice to the Liturgy of the day in singing the praise of the One who received dominion, glory and kingship; the One who held her life in his hands with immense tenderness; the One who today invited her to rise up and hold her head high because the day of her liberation had arrived.

Placing Sr. M. Rosaria in the arms of our good Father, we thank the sisters who lovingly assisted her during her invalidity and all the other care-givers of our Institute who continue to selflessly dedicate themselves to those among us who are drawing near to their heavenly reward.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 25 November 2011