

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

On this first Sunday of Lent, at 12:30 AM, our good and merciful Father called to himself, at the “Queen of Apostles” hospital, our sister

PASQUALE IPPOLITA Sr MARIA TARCISIA
Born at Bisceglie (Bari) on October 29, 1936

Sr. M. Tarcisia entered the Congregation in the house of Rome on September 8, 1957, at the age of 21. After a period of formation, she began in the apostolate of diffusion in the community of Ascoli Piceno. She lived in Rome during her Novitiate which concluded with her first profession on June 30, 1961. She spent her Juniorate in the communities of Brescia and Reggio Emilia, dedicating herself with great commitment and enthusiasm to capillary and collective diffusion. After her perpetual profession she continued to travel the streets of Italy, especially those of the Provinces of Bari and Bologna, with the desire to carry the Word of God to every family, every cottage, every school, and every factory.

In 1973, with generosity and a desire to learn, she joined the central distribution office of the audiovisual sector in Rome, and from 1978 until last November, she dedicated herself for 37 consecutive years to service in the book center in the apostolic centers of Napoli, Brescia, and Palermo, and then in those of Rome-Castro Pretorio, Albano and Arezzo. She desired to be always better prepared for this ministry, and welcomed every occasion for updating, acquainting herself with the new editions, and becoming more capable of suggesting various authors.

When she wrote to ask admission to perpetual profession, she wrote to the superior general: “I cannot hide how very much I love our beautiful apostolate”. And for this “beautiful” mission she gave of herself day after day, in serenity and in love. She was a fulfilled Pauline, desiring to be faithful to the Constitutions and to the orientations of the Founder, but she was also free in manifesting her own ideas and her own thoughts. She prayed intensely for the young people that they might be attracted by the Pauline apostolate, and she desired with all her heart that the Gospel would find its way into every family.

Last November, the state of her health suggested a transfer to the “Tecla Merlo” community in Albano. But notwithstanding the decline of her strength, nothing would have led us to predict the speed of decline in her physical condition. She participated with great joy, on January 23rd, in the centenary celebration at the cathedral of Albano, happy to be seeing again many persons whom she knew and had served in the book center of the Alban Hills. After a few days, a severe fall caused the break of her pelvis, and as a result, her admission to the San Raffaele wing of the community of Albano, to receive adequate care.

On February 6th, intense abdominal pain made us fear an intestinal stroke. She was rushed to the operating room of the “Regina Apostolorum” hospital, where she was found to have a strange mass in her abdomen, probably caused by a severe internal haemorrhage. The situation immediately appeared to be critical. For her, this past week, lived in great suffering, was truly her “hour of trial”, and of trust. And today, for her, the words of the psalm which the Liturgy placed on our lips came true: “She will call me and I will answer; in anguish I will be with her. I will free her and make her glorious.”

We believe that Sr. Tarcisia, freed from ties to this earth, will finally be able to find refuge, consolation and salvation in the shadow of the Almighty.

With affection.


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan
Superiora generale

Rome, February 14, 2016