

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

With heartfelt emotion we communicate to you that this morning, around 5am at the hospital Regina Apostolorum in Albano, the Lord called to himself a sister who was very dear to all of us at Casa Generalizia,

PEDERCINI JOLE Sr. MARIA PIERA
Born in Brescia July 22, 1925

It is very easy to outline the resume of Sr. Piera's life: She entered the Congregation in the house of Alba on December 2, 1942. She lived her years of formation in Casa Madre and concluded her novitiate with her first profession on June 29, 1946. In 1950 she went to Grottaferrata, the house that was beginning to welcome the sisters who would work in the editorial department, in order to offer help in various services and to take care of the garden. Sr. Piera's life was one that was totally fulfilled in love: 20 years in Grottaferrata as gardener and then almost 40 years as cook in Casa Generalizia, first at Via Laurentina and then at Via San Giovanni Eudes.

From the kitchen, she accompanied the unfolding journey of the Congregation offering her love and her ever joyful character that at times was a bit gruff. Her vitality, her good sense of humor and above all her great love for the superior general and her successors, made her service even more joyful. The kitchen was the heart of the home, the place where it was possible to get the latest news but also the place of welcome, of planning for celebrations, of preparation of delicious pizza and unforgettable sweets that she prepared with the help of her inseparable friend Sr. Rosa Tilli. Sr. Piera welcomed all the sisters from around the world into the kitchen. Her organizational capacity allowed her to face even very large groups of people with serenity and joy. There was never concern about the kitchen: everyone knew it was in good hands.

On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, Sr. Piera wrote, «Thank the Lord with me for the great gift of the call to the Pauline life. I have always been happy to belong here. I thank all the superiors for the good I have received from them. I also ask for prayers so that despite my miseries I might be welcomed into the arms of the merciful Father. » And truly, Sr. Piera radiated the joy and happiness of being Pauline, teasing at times about the title of her degree: the only diploma she received was the license to manage heating systems.

With the setting in of old age, in 2008, she welcomed with availability but also with suffering the transfer to the community of James Alberione in Albano. She lived through this transfer together with Sr. Enrica Paloschi, who passed away just 20 days ago. With Sr. Enrica, truly a friend, she shared joys and sufferings. And when the moment came for separation, she lived through this in peace. But by this time she too felt ready for the great step and she would say it to the sisters who came to visit her in the very few days of hospitalization at Regina Apostolorum. "I am ready", were the words that accompanied her in this week, while her blue eyes shone with light.

Dearest Sr. Piera, yes, the time for you has also come to "make it in the papers". She would often repeat, "To make it in the papers you have to die" and it seemed you looked forward to this moment of popularity. The sisters from around the world have loved you. They will read with emotion this news, they will recall your face with nostalgia and will remember your great dedication to your work and your fidelity to prayer and communitarian moments; they will recall your intense dedication every afternoon to the reading of the daily newspaper. And the superiors general that you had served with so much love and who have preceded you into heaven, Sr. Ignazia Balla e Sr. Maria Cevolani, will welcome you with joy: «Pedercini, finally you have joined us!».

While we entrust you to Mary Most Holy of the Annunciation on this solemn feast dedicated to her, we thank you again for the great love you had for all of us and for all the sisters of the world.

With much affection,

Sr Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicaria generale

Rome March 26, 2012.