

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

At about 6:45 yesterday evening, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione Community of Albano, Italy to call to eternal peace and joy our sister:

PIERI SR. CRISTINA
born in Gradoli (Viterbo), Italy on 1 July 1919.

Sr. Cristina entered the Congregation in Rome on 21 Nov. 1938. She was 19 years old at the time and was immediately entrusted with various responsibilities thanks to her serious and hardworking personality. She concluded her initial formation with her first profession, made in Rome on 19 March 1941, while World War II raged across Europe. Afterward, she carried out the technical apostolate in Rome and Grottaferrata but in 1946 she began the apostolate that would come to be inseparably associated with her. In fact, with the exception of a 3-year period as a propagandist in Cosenza, Sr. Cristina carried out the service of errand-runner in the large Via Antonino Pio community of Rome for her entire life as a Pauline. She was a member of the Divine Master community—the same community in which Prima Maestra Thecla lived—and Prima Maestra had full confidence in her, entrusting her with even the most delicate errands involving Primo Maestro and the Society of St. Paul. Sr. Cristina carried out her apostolate with fidelity and great discretion, moving around town even at that early date without a veil so as to accomplish her duties more efficiently, trusting in the power of obedience.

Sr. Cristina felt herself to be fully a Pauline apostle as she traveled the streets of Rome. She was always ready to meet any need at any time, day or night. As a young professed, she had volunteered for the missions. In her letter to Prima Maestra, she wrote: “After praying about it, I would like to ask you to send me to the missions if you think this is God’s will for me. I will even go so far as to specify the place: either America or the Philippines, but I am ready to go elsewhere if you think it best. Thank you.” These brief lines reveal Sr. Cristina’s personality very clearly: she was an obedient person ever-ready to place herself in the hands of God and do his will. When her request was not fulfilled, she embraced her responsibilities as a “full time errand runner” with faith and peace. The sisters who lived with Sr. Cristina over the years all remember her modest and discreet demeanor and her love for neatness and order. They say that she never spoke negatively of others; indeed that she esteemed each person and was always ready to forgive and excuse people. She truly lived charity in a heroic way.

Sr. Cristina was a kind and serene sister both during her intensive years of service to the Congregation and during her years of battling a serious eye problem that rendered her almost totally blind. She bore her sufferings with dignity and patience, and her progressive self-surrender to God enabled her to accept a transfer to the Thecla Merlo Community of Albano in 2004, even though it cost her much to leave her beloved Antonino Pio community and the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, where she had prayed with such fidelity for so many decades.

Sr. Cristina silently consumed her offering to the Lord first in the Thecla Merlo Community and then in the James Alberione Community of Albano. Afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease, she eventually lost her eyesight completely, followed by the loss of her hearing and autonomy. Although this caused her profound suffering, she placed herself in the hands of the Lord, allowing him to do what he would with her through the ministrations of her sisters. And yesterday she ended her life peacefully, not because of any medical crisis or complication, but simply because, like Paul, she had “finished her race” and was ready to receive the reward prepared for her by the Lord.

While we thank Sr. Cristina for her quiet, discreet and loving presence among us, we entrust to her prayers all our FSPs “errand runners” who, in every part of the world, dedicate themselves with great generosity and selflessness to this precious apostolate. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parezan
Vicar General

Rome, 29 April 2010