

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

At 12:20 p.m. today the Virgin Mary, model of every consecrated woman apostle, visited our Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy to call to heaven our sister:

PREGNOLATO PASQUA GIUSEPPINA – SR. M. TERESINA
born in Taglio di Po (Rovigo), Italy on 11 January 1923.

Everything happened very quickly, which was perfectly in tune with the style of Sr. M. Teresina, who wanted to be a gift to her community up to the very end. Although she awoke in the middle of the night, feeling unwell, she did not call the community nurse because she didn't want to disturb her. But later that day, at around noon, she suffered a heart attack and went to meet the Lord cradled in the arms of the sisters holding her in a last, affectionate embrace as they tried to help her.

The FSPs who knew Sr. Teresina all say the same thing: that she was a wonderful sister up to the last day of her life. Wonderful because of her simple and poor style of life, wonderful because of her commitment to community life and her apostolic activities, wonderful because of her relationship with the Lord, which she cultivated assiduously on a daily basis, from dawn to dusk.

She entered the Congregation in Alba on 7 July 1945. Two years later, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1948.

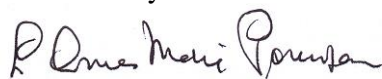
As a young professed, Sr. Teresina carried out the "propaganda" apostolate for a short time in Turin and Vercelli, after which she was transferred to Alba. There, from 1950 to the end of her life, she worked in the community's large vegetable garden and helped to tend the grounds of the Motherhouse. But Sr. Teresina did not limit herself to these activities. She also served her community by generously carrying out a wide variety of duties, choosing especially those that were the most difficult and most tiring, happy in this way to lighten the workload of the propagandists and of the sisters who ran the printing presses and worked in the bindery. Just one of her many services was the repairing of shoes, propaganda bags and suitcases. For many years Sr. Teresina and Sr. Nicolina Savoiaro engaged in a "holy rivalry" to see which of them could carry out their responsibilities with the most dedication, offering a multitude of small sacrifices for this and bearing burdens that no one else could. Sr. Teresina worked full time in the vegetable garden, laboring there all day long. She paid no attention to the long hours required because her goal was to serve God and her sisters joyfully, without complaint and in the best way possible.

Up until two years ago, it was possible to see her pedaling quickly around the courtyard of our Alba Motherhouse on a bike loaded down with the fruit and vegetables she had harvested for the community. During the Fraternal Visit to Alba, Sr. Teresina confided: "I can't say things in beautiful words. I just want to say very simply that every weed I've ever pulled has been an act of love for God; every spade of dirt I've ever lifted has been with the intention of saving souls." On our part, we can say that Sr. Teresina lived every situation that came her way as a true Pauline mystic.

Even in the last years of her life, spent in knitting and crocheting in loving and industrious silence, she spread serenity and peace, a positive outlook and hope, and a profound spirit of faith to everyone around her. Not accustomed to asking for anything for herself, she viewed everything she received as a gift—as something "extra" freely given to her by her loving community.

We can only marvel at the goodness and witness of life we received from Sr. Teresina and Sr. Lucia Monterumici, both of whom were called home to heaven today. Let us thank our heavenly Father for allowing these flowers to bloom in our midst and point out to us the path leading to a genuinely apostolic life: that of total self-donation and a holiness able to withstand every test.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 21 November 2017