

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At about 8:00 this morning, the XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time, our heavenly Father visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community of Via Antonino Pio (Rome), Italy to call to eternal rest our sister:

**RANTUCCI PALMERINA – SR. ROSANGELA**  
**born in Ovindoli (Aquila), Italy on 14 February 1916.**

Sr. Rosangela entered the Congregation in Rome on 18 January 1933, blazing a trail for her sister, Sr. M. Bruna, who followed in her footsteps 10 years later.

In 1935, as a postulant, she was assigned to the community of Pescara, where she visited the families with bags overflowing with books. She made her novitiate in Alba, concluding it with her first profession on 15 January 1939. Immediately afterward she left for Naples to serve the community as a driver. In fact, Sr. Rosangela was one of the Congregation's first drivers—a service she carried out for almost 50 years. From Naples she was transferred to Rome and from there Alba and then Grottaferrata. In 1958 she returned to the Divine Providence community of Via Antonino Pio, Rome, where she remained for the rest of her life. The Queen of Apostles Sanctuary was her great point of reference, the place in which she could always find refuge and rest after a long day battling city traffic so as to carry out the many errands of the community and different apostolic departments.

In her service as driver, Sr. Rosangela had the chance to closely follow many important congregational initiatives. For example, she accompanied the sisters on the editorial staff of the FSP magazine *Così* to the typography and press agencies for many years. Sr. Rosangela had a very decisive character and a brusque manner, but beneath her somewhat “rough” exterior lay a heart of gold. When she was not running around the city on errands, she carried out many other services for the community, carefully preserving the “tools of her trade” even after illness and advancing age prevented her from using them. In fact, her bedroom still contains the hammers, boxes of nails and strips of leather she used to repair shoes. For many years, she also took truckloads of books to the post office every day. In the 1970's, when the Italian provincial government sent out a questionnaire asking its members what type of work they were best at, she replied in large print: “Manual Labor” (for God, naturally)!

Sr. Rosangela kept a small garden near the garage of the Divine Providence community. She enjoyed spending her scraps of free time there, perhaps because the flourishing rows of vegetables reminded her of the green valleys of her native region. In 1998, she was transferred to the infirmary wing of the community but even in her late senior years her “golden hands” did not remain idle. She willingly carried out small sewing services for the sisters and above all she enjoyed making rosaries.

Her strong and assertive personality gave her prayer life a particular color: she prayed intensively and at length, her rosary beads running continually through her fingers, almost as if she wanted to “pull” from the Lord and his Mother the many graces she asked of them.

In his wisdom, God the Father called Sr. Rosangela to himself tenderly and gradually, allowing her to experience the warmth and affection of the sisters of her community, who willingly saw to all her needs. Last Sunday, Sr. Rosangela suffered a stroke but rallied immediately, giving everyone the false impression that she was on the road to recovery. Instead, in the days that followed, she suffered several other “mini-strokes,” a sign that the Lord was preparing to call her to himself. And today, as the Divine Providence community gathered for the Sunday Liturgy, Jesus Master approached Sr. Rosangela's bedside and said, “Come with me, you who have labored long and hard...and I will give you eternal rest.”

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 3 July 2011