

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 11:00 this morning, God our merciful Father paid an unexpected visit to our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

REPETTO SR. MARIA LINDA
born in Pratolungo (Alessandria), Italy on 14 May 1939.

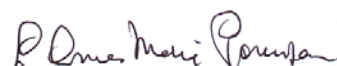
The words Sr. M. Linda wrote about her mother when she died in March 1993 could well be applied to Linda herself, since she too was called to live a long calvary of illness, suffering and self-offering. She wrote: "Mother was tried by God like gold in the furnace and she always remained faithful: faithful to the point of total self-annihilation; to the point of heroism." When her father died in 1990, she had written: "His was the death of an upright person. He was happy and proud to have given two of his daughters to the Lord in the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul. He loved the Pauline Family and admired its works. He lived the Pauline spirit and prayed abundantly for all our members."

When the roots are holy, the whole plant is holy. A worthy child of such parents, Sr. M. Linda entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 19 January 1955. She was 16 years old. After a period of formation and apostolic experience in Novara, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1959. She was filled with joy at being a daughter of the Apostle Paul. Whenever she renewed her vows, she said how unworthy she felt to have received such a great gift. On one occasion she wrote: "I am happy, very happy, to be among the Daughters of St. Paul. I thank the Lord every day for the gift of my vocation, which I think is the most beautiful vocation in the world!"

As a young professed Sr. Linda worked in the technical apostolate in Alba for 10 years successively, after which she was a member of the Piacenza book center staff from 1969-1980. A quick, industrious and joyous sister, she longed to hone her professional skills so as to carry out the Pauline apostolate always better. Consequently, she welcomed with deep gratitude the chance to pursue higher studies in theology and communications. Afterward, she made a very positive contribution to Novaradio and then to the documents sector of the St. Paul Film Center in Rome. From 1986-1995, she carried out the Pauline mission with love and enthusiasm in the Pauline book centers of Turin and Reggio Emilia. These were beautiful years for Sr. Linda, who loved to help the people who came to the book center in search of material to satisfy their thirst for God and authentic values. Sr. Linda's keen eyes were always able to perceive the needs of these individuals and her humorous approach to life made everyone smile.

But a time of testing and suffering was drawing near for her. In fact, in April 2004, her fragile health made it necessary for her to be transferred to Livorno and from there, in 2006, to the St. Joseph community of Alba. Sr. Linda continued helped out in the Alba bindery as long as she could but her physical strength ebbed day by day. She was diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease—a malady that robbed her of her organizational abilities, strong will and trademark quickness. We can truly say that in these last years the Lord tried our sister like gold in a furnace. The Divine Master purified her completely, rendering her life even more precious in his eyes and bringing to completion his work of salvation in her. About a month ago, Sr. Linda came down with a serious form of bacterial meningitis, which further weakened her. But in spite of this, her call to heaven was unexpected. Now her eyes behold the radiant light of the resurrection; now she is finally and totally "the servant of Jesus Christ," after the example of the apostle Paul, who today said to her through the liturgy: "May the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always."

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 14 October 2013