

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

At about 7:30 p.m. today, God the Father visited Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to call to himself one of our sisters who had been admitted there just a few hours earlier:

**SALA ANNA MARGHERITA – SR. MARIA PALMA  
born in Trezzano (Brescia), Italy on 25 July 1927.**

Sr. M. Palma entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 1 October 1947. After a period of formation, she had the chance to carry out the diffusion apostolate in Voghera and from that time on the Pauline mission filled her heart, awakening her finest energies and an ardent desire to reach everyone with the Good News of the Gospel. She made her novitiate in Rome during the Holy Year of 1950 and concluded it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. Afterward she resumed the propaganda ministry, first in Rome and then in Genoa. During those years, the Founder was strongly recommending that the diffusion apostolate be updated and better organized both in extension and depth so as to carry out this service with greater wisdom and intelligence.

After her perpetual profession, Sr. Palma was assigned to the Udine book center and then to the one in Pordenone. This experience gave “wings” to her apostolic spirit and helped to shape her Pauline vocation, prompting her to strive to always do the most good possible through our particular mission.

Poor health made it necessary for Sr. Palma to spend about a year as a patient in our Albano clinic. In 1965, she was assigned to the Via Antonino Pio community, Rome, where she worked for more than 20 years in the sector dedicated to non-Pauline editions, filling orders sent in from all over Italy. She also served as secretary of the department for several years. But Sr. Palma will be remembered above all for the documentation work she did in the central headquarters for the Pauline apostolate in Rome. Together with other sisters, she helped to compile bibliographical material on file cards for our book centers. These hand-written cards numbered in the thousands and were very valuable to our centers in getting to know material being published in Italy. Sr. Palma would carefully read book reviews, cut out news published about various authors and popular books, and keep a record of various movements taking place in society, as well as current philosophical lines of thought, the teachings of the Church, etc. The material she compiled was very precious and proved to be a treasure trove when our FSP book centers throughout Italy were computerized.

Sr. Palma’s kindness, her precision in her work, and the quickness with which she did it, were all proverbial. The same was true of her yearning to be “on the move.” In fact, she rejoiced whenever she was asked to help reorganize a book center in the process of being computerized or whenever she had the chance to “escape” the four walls of her office to manage book displays in parishes and schools. Sr. Palma’s fervor for the Pauline apostolate truly knew no bounds and this love was extended to various Marian and charismatic movements. Her many-sided personality allowed her to work serenely and with great concentration in her office for long stretches of time but also kept her open to every means of carrying out the Pauline mission creatively, like a true missionary of the Gospel.

A few months ago, Sr. Palma’s always-fragile health began to steadily decline due to spinal cord problems. Three weeks ago she was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano and this morning she suffered a brain hemorrhage. She was taken immediately to Queen of Apostles Hospital but the brain damage was irreversible and she quickly flew to the arms of the Father she had loved intensely all her life and had sought to proclaim with all her strength. May Sr. Palma’s passion for the apostolate be a font of inspiration for us and for the whole Church, which in these days is searching for new ways to proclaim the Gospel to everyone.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 15 October 2012