

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

At 10:00 this morning, God the Father visited the intensive care wing of Sant'Eugenio Hospital in Rome, Italy, to call to his eternal light our sister:

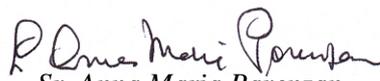
SCURTI LEONTINA – SR. MARIA FIDES
born in Spoltore (Pescara), Italy on 27 May 1926.

About a week ago, Sr. M. Fides was taken to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, for a check-up. It was discovered that she had major cardiovascular problems and today, just a few days later, she was called to heaven. We believe that she answered that call with the vigilance and promptness that characterized her entire life. In fact, Sr. M. Fides always served others wholeheartedly through a life marked by uprightness, poverty, humility and generosity to the point of self-sacrifice. She came from a well-to-do family but from the very beginning of her Pauline life she showed a clear preference for things that were the poorest and that other sisters had discarded. She entered the Institute with a large dowry, but after reflection asked that all these goods be distributed to the poor because she did not need them. We remember Sr. Fides as a dear sister who deeply loved her Pauline vocation and dedicated herself to it without reserve up to the last day of her life.

She entered the Congregation in Alba on 10 Dec. 1948. Six months later she was sent to Turin and from there to Reggio Emilia. In both dioceses, she carried out the “propaganda” apostolate. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. As a young professed, she studied philosophy in Rome and then, in 1953, she was assigned to Alba, where she worked as an assistant formator and a teacher of the aspirants. She never lost a minute of time and taught the young women in her care to strive to acquire the virtue of diligence. In 1960, Sr. M. Fides was transferred to Verona, where she once again carried out the diffusion apostolate. In 1962, although stationed in Livorno, she commuted back and forth to the Pisa book center, where she worked for 12 beautiful years. Once a week, she would travel by train or bus from Livorno to Pisa and then back again, her bags overflowing with books and films. She did not mind the fatigue of the long commute as long as the Word of God could “race ahead.” In Pisa, she welcomed the book center clients with great kindness, sought to meet their needs and suggested material suited to their particular situations. Priests and university professors took their problems to Sr. M. Fides in the confidence that she would provide them with the material that responded to their concerns, accompanied by a helpful word of advice.

In 1974, Sr. M. Fides was transferred to Sulmona and for the next thirty years her life alternated between that and the Aquila community, both in the Abruzzo region. Together with the local people, she suffered very deeply when these two communities were closed but with great faith and obedience she accepted the decision of her superiors. In 2005, she was assigned to Divine Providence community of Via Antonino Pio, Rome, where she carried out various household services. She also diffused books and periodicals in several hospitals and from a stand in the city’s huge open-air marketplace known as Porta Portese. Out of love of God, she too became an itinerant book vendor, setting up a display in the market every Sunday so as to meet people who might never encounter the Word of God anywhere else. Her big heart, simplicity and friendly personality made it easy for everyone to approach her. The other vendors were very solicitous about her and worried if they did not see her opening her stand bright and early every Sunday morning. It is comes spontaneously to apply to our sister the request expressed in today’s Liturgy by “the people of all nations”: “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you” (Zc. (:23). Yes, the Lord was truly with Sr. Fides and she lived in a profound and uninterrupted communion with him that was also expressed in her devotion to the Blessed Mother. In fact, every time she left the Antonino Pio compound, she would pray the rosary with the intention of “sowing Hail Marys along her path,” entrusting to the Queen of Apostles the needs of all the people she met. Because of this, we are sure that the road she traveled to heaven today was laced with abundant prayer and that now she is in the arms of the Blessed Trinity, sharing the joy of the saints.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 27 September 2011