

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 a little after 9:00 p.m. this evening, the Feast of the Ascension, the Lord knocked once again on our door to call to himself a member of our IV Novembre community (Albano), Italy:

**SPEDALIERE M. ROSARIA – SR. M. CONSILIA
born in Portici (Naples), Italy on 4 August 1933.**

Sr. M. Consilia was transferred to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano in 1988, when irreparable muscle damage made it impossible for her to maintain an upright position. Confined to a wheelchair, her already fragile physical situation worsened several years ago when she was diagnosed as suffering from a malignant tumor that had already spread throughout her system. But in spite of her precarious health, Sr. M. Consilia was a friendly, smiling and kind sister. When her condition worsened several days ago, she said with full awareness: “Consilia is in the hands of God.” At that point, she had been in the IV Novembre community for about 20 days because the sisters of the Thecla Merlo community with the most serious health problems had been transferred there since this newly-renovated residence was better equipped for long-term health care.

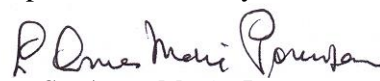
Sr. M. Consilia entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 20 September 1957. She spent her postulancy carrying out capillary diffusion of the Word of God in the diocese of Trieste. She returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1961. That day, the Founder spoke words that we are sure provided Sr. Consilia with great light in the years to come: “I offer, give and consecrate all.... Your holiness depends on that *all*.... How wonderful to belong entirely to God! To be his possession! Remain close to St. Paul: he wanted to serve the Lord in everything. First, he lived him: *For me, life is Christ*. And then he took him to the whole world.”

Fired by this desire to give everything to the Lord, Sr. M. Consilia was sent to Trapani after her profession to resume the propaganda apostolate, which gave her the chance to take the Gospel to everyone. In the report that accompanied Sr. M. Consilia’s request to renew her vows, her local superior underscored her sociable personality, commenting: “She is the type of person that everyone would like to have in their community.” After another period of formation in which she had the chance to study the Constitutions more deeply, Sr. M. Consilia made her perpetual profession on 30 June 1966 in the hands of Superior General, M. Ignazia Balla.

Following this, she worked in the Ravenna book center for several years and then was transferred to Rome, where she was assigned to the stock room. In 1971, she was appointed superior of the Grosseto community and the sisters she lived with at that time still remember her friendliness and her attention to each person. It was in Grosseto that Sr. M. Consilia’s chronically frail health began to deteriorate even more following a severe fright that she experienced. Things reached the point that she was no longer able to participate in the life of the community on a regular basis. She was transferred back to Rome, where she continued to work with great generosity in the stock room, then in the Benevento and Salerno book centers, and finally in the Capodimonte (Naples) community. In 1987 she asked for and obtained a leave of absence to assist her sister, who was seriously ill.

She returned to her community with her own health severely weakened and consequently was immediately transferred to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano.

Everyone who visited Sr. M. Consilia during the final period of her life was struck by her kindness and complete self-surrender into the hands of God. She never complained about her health problems and tried not to let them weigh on others. She was fully aware that she was rapidly approaching the moment in which her words “I offer, give and consecrate all” would be concretized, and we are sure that her gift of love was pleasing to the Father and beneficial to many people. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 24 May 2009
Feast of the Ascension