

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

A little after midnight last night, the Divine Master visited the Divine Providence community of Via Antonino Pio, Rome, Italy to call to himself a great Pauline apostle:

TROLLI FRANCESCA – SR. DIOMIRA
born in Ortona a Mare (Chieti), Italy on 14 February 1914.

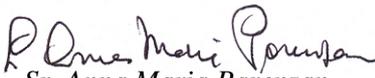
Sr. Diomira entered the Congregation in the community of Pescara on 19 April 1939. She was 25 years old at the time and both her parents were deceased. Closing the door to the family home for the last time, she brought with her into the Institute her mother's trousseau, which Maestra Thecla divided among the most needy aspirants. Since she was an expert seamstress, Francesca was assigned to work in the sewing room of the large Via Antonino Pio community. She made her novitiate in Rome at the height of World War II, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1943. On 26 December 1945 the war ended and Sr. Diomira began an adventurous life as a missionary. Her first stop overseas was Staten Island, U.S.A., where she carried out the apostolate of capillary propaganda. But her ultimate destination was Mexico and on 26 May 1948 she and three other FSPs (Sr. Bernardetta Ferraris, Sr. Annunziata Spada and Sr. Tecla Zilianti) arrived in Mexico City. The trip was long and fatiguing—in fact the sisters, accompanied by two Pauline priests, reached their new mission outpost only after a 4-day train trip and 22-hour bus ride. At the Mexican frontier, they were met by the Superior of the Society of St. Paul and a Brother Disciple. It was a great sacrifice for the sisters to exchange their religious habits for secular attire but this was necessary for the apostolate. Before they arrived in Mexico, M. Thecla had written to them, saying: “As I write these words, I think of you enroute to your new apostolic destination. I have been told that our Pauline brothers are expecting you and have already prepared a ‘nest’ for you. May the Lord reward them. You are in my thoughts and I follow you with my prayers, asking the Lord to make you saints and help you do good to souls. I place you in the hands of the Blessed Mother every day—see to it that you stay there! She is our Mother and she will help and sustain you in everything.... For the Feast of St. Thecla, give me the gift of a few vocations because they are our most beautiful gifts. Be joyful and serene. I am praying earnestly and continually for each one of you.”

After taking just a few days to settle in and see to their basic needs, the sisters began the propaganda apostolate. The results of their first visits to the people were not promising: the people thought they were Protestants and the sisters had a hard time trying to clarify who they were. The little community really began from Bethlehem, with the members placing all their trust in the Lord. On 17 July 1952 Sr. Diomira left Mexico City to open the community of Puebla and to serve as its first superior. Speaking about the FSP presence in his diocese, the bishop said: “I am very happy with the work the Daughters of St. Paul are doing. They are like doves who alight everywhere, never calling attention to themselves and always remaining spotless.”

After Puebla, Sr. Diomira served as superior of the communities of Monterrey, Guadalajara and Ciudad Juarez. She also opened this last-mentioned community on 3 April 1960, together with Sr. Bernardetta Ferraris. In 1965, Sr. Diomira returned to Italy but Our Lady of Guadalupe and the people of Mexico always remained in her heart. She rejoined the Italian Province with great simplicity and humility, willingly carrying out the services entrusted to her by obedience: first in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Naples and Rome, then at the reception desk of the Via Antonino Pio community and then in its shipping department.

Sr. Diomira's quiet goodness and hardworking personality made her a shining example to all the sisters. She loved everyone and spent her energies for everyone, making all the gift of her gentle smile and wise words. About a month ago, she suffered a stroke that triggered the steady decline of her health. Her worsening condition made it clear that the Lord would soon be calling her home to heaven. In fact, he called her to himself today, the vigil of the Christmas novena, so that she could celebrate Christmas in intimacy with him, along with the many FSPs with whom she had celebrated many Christmases on earth.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome 15 December 2010