

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

A few minutes after the death of Sr. M. Edvige, our heavenly Father once more visited our community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

VAGNI FRANCESCA – SR. MAURILIA MARIA
born in Castelnuovo (Cremona), Italy on 29 August 1931.

Sr. Maurilia entered the Congregation in Alba on 14 March 1947. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. As a young professed, she was stationed in Brescia. In the 18 consecutive years in which she lived in this community, she carried out the apostolate of capillary diffusion with deep passion, creativity and imagination, seeking to involve the laity in it and utilizing every means to make our editions known and easily accessible to the people.


She loved to set out each day with a car overflowing with significant books such as *The Catholic Encyclopedia* and *The Illustrated Bible*. And she was not satisfied to diffuse individual volumes of these series. Instead, she tried to diffuse entire collections so as to help renew the mentality of society. It is to Sr. Maurilia that we owe the launching of *Così*, the FSP magazine for young women, in all the valleys of the Brescia region, as well as the foundation of numerous parish, school and family libraries, the opening of countless book deposits, and a wide diffusion of the *Family Magazine*.

Counting firmly on the grace of her vocation, Sr. Maurilia's apostolic heart overcame every obstacle in her efforts to reach everyone through the propaganda apostolate and do as much good as possible. She continued to burn with the same apostolic ardor when she was called to the service of authority—a service she carried almost without interruption for the next forty years. It can well be said that Sr. Maurilia possessed a special charism when it came to guiding communities. Her competence in carrying out this service was an innate gift that sprang from her love for every sister and her desire that every person in the community might find a warm and welcoming atmosphere there. She began her long curriculum as a superior in Pordenone in 1968. A short time later she was transferred to Ferrara. After this, she spent 7 years as superior in Trent, a year as bursar in Turin, and then 6 years as superior in Naples. From there, she went on to serve as superior of our Via Bosio community (Rome) and immediately afterward as superior in Ancona for 2 consecutive terms. Following a short “time out” in Cosenza, she was once more appointed superior of our Trent community, this time for three consecutive terms.

In 2005, Sr. Maurilia was sent to Naples, where she was able to once again enjoy a brief “time out” for two years, but in 2007 she was called anew to the service of authority, this time in the community of La Spezia. She served as local superior there until her steadily declining health made it necessary to transfer her to Alba to receive the care she needed. Sr. Maurilia led an intense life, rich in love and self-sacrifice, missionary ardor and great concern for the needs of each sister. She “evangelized the good” and “evangelized peace,” not only during the years she was a “walker for God” but also when, in the silence of the community, she brought the Gospel of love to everyone she met. She had truly grasped the words of the Founder, who said: “The ‘habit’ of the Daughters of St. Paul is a heart conformed to the heart of Jesus and the heart of St. Paul—two hearts burning with love.”

As we prepare for our upcoming General Chapter, it seems that the Lord wants to reveal to us that the Pauline vocation can be expressed in a single word: love—a love that makes us *all to all*; a love that leads us along the paths of the new evangelization so as to “offer everyone the charity of the truth.” Sr. M. Edvige and Sr. Maurilia helped to trace out this path for us; may they now intercede for us before the Divine Master during this important time, rich in challenges and grace for the Church.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 1 August 2013