

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

We want to inform you that at 2:45 pm on this Friday of Lent, in the infirmary of the community of Alba, our good and merciful Father called to himself our sister

VAL ONORINA ISIDORA Sr GIOVANNA
Born at Oderzo (Treviso) on June 3, 1927

Sr M. Giovanna entered the Congregation in the house of Genoa, on June 29, 1941 at the age of fourteen. She was immediately initiated in the diffusion apostolate at Genoa and at Rovigo and was then transferred to Rome for the novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on the August 29, 1946. She spent her Juniorate in the communities of Venice and Genoa, always engaged in capillary and collective diffusion.

After her perpetual profession, made in Rome in 1952, she began her long missionary track record: in 1953 she was at Staten Island (USA) where she dedicated herself for six consecutive years to “propaganda” in the offices and schools of New York City. In 1959, she was sent to Langley, the foundation house of Great Britain, which had been opened only four years previously. Sr Giovanna spent a good fifty three years of her Pauline life in that country.

In the Delegation of Great Britain sister was able to carry out many diverse assignments among various communities: at Birmingham, she was given the responsibility of capillary and collective diffusion for ten consecutive years, after which she was assigned there as local superior. In 1972, she was nominated councilor of the Delegation, and for the next fifteen years she served alternately at Liverpool and Glasgow in the book center apostolate. Her simple, serene, and generous presence was a gift for those communities.

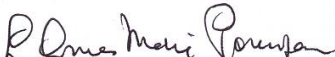
After a parenthesis in Langley (in service to the sisters as their cook), she was nominated for two consecutive terms as superior of Birmingham and then given the responsibility of the local book center. After a period spent once again at Liverpool, from the year 2000 until 2012, she dedicated herself with great love to various services in the house of Langley.

Sr. Giovanna lived much of the history of the Delegation of Great Britain, enriching the communities with her missionary passion joined to the witness of an authentically evangelical Pauline life: her fidelity to and love for the Founder and for Maestra Thecla were proverbial. Without particular preparation or adequate understanding of the language she was well inculturated in Britain’s reality, offering substantial assistance to the development of the apostolate and establishing friendly relationships with the sisters with whom she shared her life. Her personality, though rather serious, knew how to open itself with a smile, with benevolence, and with true expressions of affection and tenderness.

Her return to Italy in 2012 after suffering a stroke, cost her tremendously, but she knew how to accept in faith her transfer to Alba and her placement in the infirmary of the Mother House. Lately the strokes continued, even if in milder than previously, but a few days ago, a stronger than usual attack caused her to fall into a profound coma.

While we bid our last farewell to this dear sister, we entrust to her the young people of Great Britain and all of Europe: that their search for God may lead to the desire for a life generously given to the Lord, to announce the Gospel to all who are poor in values, poor in faith, poor in meaning worth giving their lives for.

With affection.


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior general

Rome, February, 2016.