

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

Today, the Memorial of the Guardian Angels, one of our sisters was called to heaven to unite her voice to theirs in perennial praise of God:

VITALINI SR. TERESINA
born in Terni, Italy on 1 March 1925.

Sr. Teresina died at about 6:30 this morning. She had just returned to the Primo Maestro community (formerly known as the IV Novembre community) of Albano, following a brief period in St. Camillus Hospital, Rome, where she had been hospitalized in an attempt to halt the progress of a tumor that had been discovered in her liver just a few weeks ago. As a doctor herself, Sr. Teresina was fully aware of the gravity of her condition but she accepted this unexpected “visit” of the Lord with serenity and faith. Up to the very end of her life, she remained a beautiful witness to what it means to be a Pauline at every stage of one’s life, in sickness and in health.

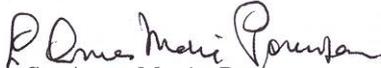
Sr. Teresina entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 14 September 1944 after an adventurous trip in a truck carrying a load of peaches to the market. Looking back on that difficult war period, she recalls how the FSP formation mistresses would divide their own bread rations among the hungry young girls entrusted to their care. She made her novitiate in Grottaferrata, concluding it with her first profession in Rome on 19 March 1948.

In her life among us, Sr. Teresina witnessed to the gift of “knowledge,” understood as “sanctification of the mind” through a commitment to systematic studies and continual updating. As a young professed, she served the Congregation as both teacher and formator. From 1950-1954, she frequented the philosophy and theology courses held within the Congregation. She reflected often on the words of the Founder to our FSP students, assuring them that God would bless them if they were docile to their teachers and used their talents responsibly.

In simplicity and humility, Sr. Teresina placed the wealth of intellectual gifts she had received from the Lord at his service. She accepted the invitation to study medicine at the University of Rome and received her medical degree in 1966. In 1969, she completed specialized studies in tuberculosis and other respiratory ailments and in 1970 received a license in surgery. To perfect her professional skills even further, she went to Kalongo, Uganda in 1972 to study tropical diseases, and from there to Canada, where she took courses in psychotherapy and medical practice in one of Montreal’s best hospitals.

From 1967-1991, except for periods of study or experiences in other hospitals, Sr. Teresina served as assistant physician in the wing reserved for the treatment of respiratory illnesses at Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano. In 1976, she spent a period of time as a consultant in the dispensary of Campobasso. And in 1980, she completed a specialization course in gerontology and geriatrics at the University of Pavia. Returning to Rome, she lived for several years in our Divine Providence community in Via Antonino Pio, where she also served as a group leader and animator. From 1977-1994, she was a member of our Ariccia-Galloro community.

Because she wanted to place all her talents at the service of the Congregation, Sr. Teresina readily and joyfully accepted every request made of her both in Italy and from overseas to conduct brief courses for our sisters, especially in preventive medicine. As a teacher, she was known for the clear and interesting way in which she presented her subjects. When she reached the age of obligatory retirement from the medical staff of Queen of Apostles Hospital, she served as superior of the Cicogna community for two terms. In 2002, she was transferred to Alba, where she served the community as both doctor and nurse, as a liturgical animator and as vice-superior for three years. A wise and serene presence, she was truly an “angel” to our Alba community, from which she was transferred to Rome only a few weeks ago, following the discovery that she was suffering from pancreatic cancer. Filled with gratitude to Sr. Teresina for all that she was and did for us, we are comforted by the thought that she now beholds the face of God and is praising him eternally in the company of the angels. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 2 October 2009