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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
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Dearest Sisters,

At about 6:45 p.m. today, one of the members of our Milan (Via Paolo Uccello) community, Italy passed to eternity surrounded by the other members of her community and her relatives:

**VOTANO SR. AURORA**  
**born in Archi (Reggio Calabria), Italy on 12 August 1943.**

Sr. Aurora entered the Congregation in Rome on 21 September 1964 at the age of 21. After her aspirancy, she was sent to Bologna to proclaim the Gospel to families and collectivities. She returned to Rome for her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1969. As a young professed, Sr. Aurora was sent to Turin to carry out the diffusion apostolate and she also continued her theological formation by means of a 2-year course organized by USMI. The thirst for knowledge that she bore in her heart led her to make the most of every opportunity she received to cultivate the academic dimension of her life. She wrote: "My studies have opened a window through which I can contemplate the things around me." And this desire to learn, to reflect more deeply on things and get to know reality accompanied her all her life.

In her letter requesting permission to renew her vows in 1974, she said: "I know my limitations, my fears and my doubts, which are the 'baggage' of my daily life, but I don't think these things condition my request. In fact, they help me to not be too sure of myself and to live in an attitude of continual search and poverty, placing my future in the hands of God."

Sr. Aurora finished her Juniorate in the community of Genoa and after her perpetual profession, made in Alba in 1975, she was assigned to the Chiavari book center. Afterward, she frequented with great enthusiasm the *Ecole de la foi (The School of Faith)* in Fribourg, France, which gave her the chance to deepen her theological and spiritual formation even further. When she returned to Italy, she was assigned first to Bergamo and then to the Duomo community of Naples, where she resumed the book center apostolate, carrying out her responsibilities with competence, precision and clarity. Sr. Aurora was a good, sincere, upright and balanced person, who always sought the essentials in life. Her yearning to hone her academic skills was motivated by her desire to carry out the Pauline mission always more effectively and in a way adapted to the times.

Her desire to donate her life completely to the Lord led her to ask her superiors on two different occasions to assign her to evangelization in a "third-world community." In this regard, she wrote: "I know I don't have any special gifts. I am motivated solely by trust in God, good will, sensitivity to the Pauline mission and the desire to be useful..."

In 1989, she was transferred to our P. Uccello community in Milan where, with her characteristic diligence, she carried out a number of different services: work in the community library, press office, picture and editorial archives, reception desk...all while bearing the burden of very fragile health due to heart problems. In fact, during this period she underwent open-heart surgery twice. Later she developed breast cancer and, in these last years, also intestinal cancer, both of which involved further surgery. Sr. Aurora accepted these crosses with simplicity and a spirit of faith, asking the Lord for healing but at the same time confronting her situation with the resolution typical of her Calabrian roots.

This past August, her situation began to worsen rapidly. Sr. Aurora said she felt like she was standing at what she called "God's door" and that she was concretely living the certitude that had left its mark on her from the very beginning of her Pauline life. As she wrote: "The Lord is faithful and it is in that fidelity that I place all my hope and trust." May the hymn, *I Know Him in Whom I Have Believed*, which accompanied all the decisive moments of our sister's life, now accompany her to the "wedding of the Lamb," where every tear is dried and she can feast at the banquet of abundant life.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 5 October 2018