

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

Just after noon on this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Lord Jesus visited our Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to call home to heaven our sister:

**ZAGARA SR. DOMENICA (MIMMA)  
born in Palermo, Italy on 3 August 1928.**

Sr. Mimma had been a patient at Albano for about a week, following a cerebral hemorrhage that she suffered while in her bedroom in the Via Antonino Pio community, Rome. In the past few days, she seemed to be slowly recovering when another, more powerful hemorrhage occurred, leading to her meeting with the Divine Master.

Sr. Mimma entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 9 Sept. 1947. she made her novitiate in that community, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. She had entered the Institute with a business degree and after her profession was inserted in the group of sisters studying theology in view of future duties in the formation and apostolic sectors. At the end of her studies, Sr. Mimma was asked to teach dogmatic theology to the FSP students in Alba and Rome. Contemporaneously, she gave talks during Bible and Catechetical Weeks. She also spent some time in Reggio Emilia, coordinating the diffusion apostolate to parishes and collectivities. Sr. Mimma felt called to “break the bread of the Word” for the people of God and she presented the wealth of the Gospel to them with great enthusiasm and clarity.

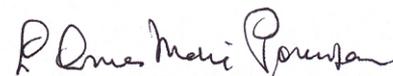
To speak about Sr. Mimma brings to mind the many fruitful years in which our FSP missionaries, under the wise and farsighted guidance of the Founder and Prima Maestra Thecla, launched and developed with great courage and faith many apostolic projects that were at the time prophetic.

In 1968, Sr. Mimma was appointed to the Preparatory Commission for the Institute’s Special Chapter. Afterward, she spent a brief period of time in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, where she collaborated with the diocesan social communications office.

After her return to Italy in 1974, she was assigned to the Pauline Catechetical Center in Via Antonino Pio, Rome, where she dedicated all her energy to developing the catechetical apostolate in Italy, making a personal contribution to the catechetical renewal taking place in those years. To carry out her work more effectively, she took classes at the Pontifical Antonianum University, where she received a Master’s Degree in Theology, with a specialization in pastoral work. From 1976-1995, she was the director of the catechetical periodical “Way, Truth and Life”—a service she carried out enthusiastically, intelligently and with great love. The Pauline Catechetical Center became an authoritative voice in the catechetical field in Italy and we can say that thanks to the grace of their vocation, Sr. Mimma and other FSPs did much to accompany and support catechetical renewal in the Church by helping to spread the light and grace generated by Vatican Council II. While carrying out this service, Sr. Mimma also organized meetings to help religious women get to know and use new catechetical methodologies and languages. She realized that the demanding field of catechesis required its formators to undergo continual formation themselves. In fact, she wrote: “I am aware that this periodical is a ‘school’ first of all for its editorial staff and only then for its subscribers....”

In 1995, Sr. Mimma was asked to coordinate the catechetical sector of the Italian province’s publishing house. Her work involved selecting and preparing texts to help various groups in society reflect more deeply on the Faith. In the last few years of her life, Sr. Mimma began to slow down physically but her contributions to catechesis remained abundant and overflowed with the wisdom she had accumulated over many years of teaching, personal renewal and the effort to learn from everyone and everything. Sr. Mimma kept the flame of the lamp of catechesis burning brightly up to the very end of her life and we must now, in our turn, continue to keep it alive.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rom, 16 January 2011