



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

Just after midnight last night, God, our good Father, visited the infirmary of our Alba, Italy community to call to himself our sister:

BORELLO GIUSEPPINA – SR. MARIA EDVIGE
born in Pezzolo (Cuneo), Italy on 21 August 1927.

Gentle, industrious, quiet, faithful, with a great spirit of faith and love for the Pauline vocation: these are some of the characteristics that marked the life of this dear sister who worked for more than 50 years in the Alba bindery, enriching her vocation with many graces and carrying out her apostolic service with exceptional professional skill.

Sr. M. Edvige entered the Congregation in the community of Alba at the age of twelve on 2 September 1939. She was assigned to work in the technical apostolate, where she learned from the Founder himself that preparing the Word of God is a sacred and profound mission. Other than about 10 years spent carrying out propaganda in the communities of Como, Vercelli, Aosta and Savona, Sr. M. Edvige lived her entire religious life in Alba, where she dedicated herself, day after day, to giving the Word of God a worthy and attractive form.

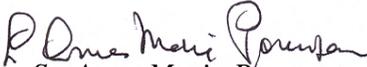
She made her novitiate in Alba, concluding it with her first profession on 29 June 1946. Her request to be admitted to profession reveals her docility and humility. “I am ready to go anywhere,” she wrote, “as a propagandist or as an overseas missionary. I am willing to accept whatever work is asked of me, whether it be sweeping floors, cooking or gardening. I am also ready to renounce seeing my family...” Sr. M. Edvige truly sought only the Lord and his will. And the Lord used her humble, quiet, persevering search for him to transform her life into a true masterpiece.

For 50 consecutive years (1957-2007) she worked at the gilding machine in the Alba bindery, putting the refinishing work on covers and gold-leaf edges on countless Bibles, missals, prayer books, First Communion and Confirmation albums, etc. Sr. Edvige’s fidelity to her work, which required great precision, and her expertise at it enabled the sector to develop rapidly and made our Alba bindery renowned for its fine refinishing work. In spite of the fact that she was obliged to spend long hours each day on her feet, Sr. Edvige carried out her apostolate with great dedication. In fact, those same feet that had previously traveled the roads of Italy bringing everyone “God’s message of peace,” were now transformed into the “altar” of her daily self-offering so that the Word might race ahead and the world become a more beautiful place thanks to her hidden toil.

But besides producing beautiful books, Sr. M. Edvige herself was a beautiful person—a sister who established warm and transparent relations with others and who expressed herself above all through her gentle demeanor and luminous smile. She was happy to welcome FSP pilgrims from all over the world to our Motherhouse and she joyfully offered her prayers and sacrifices so that the Congregation would respond to God’s plan and to the intentions for which Maestra Thecla had offered her life.

Afflicted with cerebral atrophy, which robbed her of speech, Sr. M. Edvige spent the last two years of her life in the Alba infirmary. There she allowed the Lord to put the finishing touches on her life, gilding it with the precious gold of illness and suffering, just as she had used gold leaf to embellish his Word for so many years. And tonight, seeing that his refinishing job was complete, the Master descended in a luminous cloud to lead our sister to the peace of his Kingdom. Now her voice joins those of all the Paulines who preceded her in singing his praises without end.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 1 August 2013