

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

Today, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness and Queen of the Americas, the Lord visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy to call to eternal life our sister:

**CONTI LUIGINA – SR. MARIA TERESITA**  
**born in Brembio (Milan), Italy on 28 January 1928.**

For the past six months, Sr. Teresita had been battling lung cancer, which had weakened her physically but had not affected her serenity or her love of life, allowing her to smile even in the most difficult situations. Paraphrasing Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Sr. Teresita wrote some time ago: “I look behind me and am amazed at the road I have traveled from the beginning up to this point. I thank the Lord because he gave me the joy of discovering myself in always new ways; the joy of growing and of communicating to others a reflection of his light.”

Motivated by a desire to “look beyond her small world,” Sr. Teresita entered the Congregation in Alba on 6 October 1948, preparing the way for her younger sister Rosanna, who followed in her footsteps 8 years later. Sr. Teresita made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. After taking courses in philosophy and theology organized by the Institute, she was sent overseas as a missionary to Colombia, where she carried out the service of novice mistress and local superior in Bogota. Making it a top priority to get to know the situation of the country so as to understand its people, she wrote: “Allowing the Lord to work on me, I discovered a wealth of values that I could incorporate into my own life because they didn’t detract from what I was and in exchange they enriched me with things I didn’t possess.”

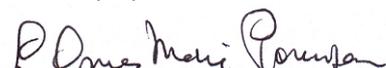
But when she had reached the point of feeling that she had been adequately “formed” by the Colombian culture, Sr. Teresita was called to once more look beyond her borders: in 1966 she was sent to Bolivia as superior of the La Paz community. She wrote: “I felt warmly welcomed by the city, with its fairytale setting on a lofty Andean plateau, capped by an intensely blue sky. The ‘new breeze’ generated by Vatican Council II and the Medellin Conference reached me in Bolivia. That was a beautiful time of renewal—one that I savored, deepened and shared with other religious as we sought to express our faith and mission always more authentically. Enriched by this experience and yearning to transform it into concrete practice, I was given the chance to do this when another window opened for me: Buenos Aires.”

In Argentina, Sr. Teresita carried out the services of formator, provincial councilor for a number of terms, and local superior in Tucuman and Buenos Aires. But other new experiences awaited her: in 1984 she returned to Colombia, where she carried out the office of provincial superior for two terms.

Viewing every transfer as an invitation to “new life,” Sr. Teresita returned to Italy in 1990 and was appointed superior of the Divine Providence community, Rome for two terms and then of the Brescia community for one term. In 2000, she was asked to carry out the service of delegate in the provincial government, followed by a term as local superior in Milan.

In 2007, Sr. Teresita returned to the Divine Providence community, where she served as vice-superior and group leader. Two years ago, she wrote: “Perhaps it could be said that with so many transfers and transformations I am no longer myself, but that is absolutely not the case. I am the same person I always was and I am happy to have lived my life as I did. If I had a second chance at life, I would choose to start from today so as to continue to grow. I want to make my life more genuine, true and free—a life marked by mature motivations; one that is attentive to humanity’s journey; one that is filled with amazement at God’s passionate creativity; one that is always seeking the ‘fresh bread’ of new life and that is always ready to look to new horizons.... I feel like a chick still pecking its way out of its shell. I am still in the process of being born!” And today the Lord completed Sr. Teresita’s birth—welcoming her into the glory of the new life for which she had always yearned.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 12 December 2014