

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, Good Friday, at about 5:00 p.m., the Lord Jesus visited our Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to unite to himself in death our sister,

FOLIGNO ADA – SR. MARIA CRISTINA
born in Sant’Angelo Limosano (Campobasso), Italy on 6 September 1933.

For the past two years, Sr. M. Cristina lived in the San Raffaele (infirmary) wing of our Albano community due to her need to receive ongoing care for hyperthyroidism. A few days ago she was admitted to Queen of Apostles Hospital because of cardio-respiratory problems. Today, while the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion was being celebrated in the hospital chapel, Sr. M. Cristina took a sudden turn for the worse, surrendering her soul to her Lord and Master in the shadow of the cross.

Our sister entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 25 October 1947, at the age of 14. She underwent her initial formation in the Motherhouse, where she worked in the typography. As a postulant, she carried out the propaganda apostolate in Treviso. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1954 in the presence of Blessed James Alberione. On that occasion, the Founder remind the newly-professed sisters of the eternal profession they would make on their deathbed, saying: “When Jesus comes to call you with the words, ‘Come, spouse of Christ,’ may you respond with a generous ‘yes,’ just as you generously responded to the divine call to the religious life.”

As a young professed, Sr. M. Cristina returned to the Alba typography. After this, she dedicated herself to diffusing the Word of God with great zeal in Cosenza, Campobasso and Novara. In 1972, she was assigned to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano and thus began a new stage of her Pauline life—one which would last for 40 years. It was not easy for Sr. M. Cristina to leave the apostolate of capillary diffusion, which she loved very much, but she generously repeated the “yes” she had said to God on the occasion of her profession. When she entered the novitiate, her superiors noted that she was a hard-working, good-hearted and docile young woman—a person ready to make sacrifices and who was deeply attached to the Institute. All these gifts, matured over the years, made it easier for Sr. M. Cristina to insert herself in her new community and apostolic activity. In 1978, she earned a diploma in practical nursing and was able to put her skills to good use at the side of the hospital’s registered nurses. For almost 30 years she worked in the kitchenettes in various wards of the hospital. A creative and sociable person, she forged warm bonds of friendship with the other hospital personnel and with the patients. In carrying out her nursing duties, she also carried out the Pauline apostolate by never hesitating to offer people a good book or magazine to read, taking advantage of every opportunity to serve as an “apostle of the good press” among to the patients and their visitors.

Sr. M. Cristina participated wholeheartedly in the life of her community. A person who deeply loved all things beautiful, she enjoyed helping to prepare for feast days so as to make them truly special occasions.

About two years ago, Sr. M. Cristina’s declining health made it necessary to transfer her to the San Raffaele (infirmary) wing of our Albano community. Perhaps she did not think the Lord would call her to himself so soon, but she did not keep him waiting. We like to imagine that at that supreme moment, the timely reminder of Primo Maestro on her profession day echoed in her heart: “When the time comes for you to pass to eternity, remember that in this life you already received the hundredfold and thank him wholeheartedly for this.”

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 22 April 2011 (Good Friday)