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Dearest Sisters,

As Lent begins, the “favorable time”, the “time of salvation” arrived for our sister

SR. MARIA AURORA MALAVOLTA (AIDA)
Born at Quarantoli (Modena) on July 10, 1925

Everything happened so unexpectedly. Sr. Aurora was in the Saint Siro Clinic in Milan, where she had undergone surgery for her knee. She had an exceptional recovery, and had already started physical therapy. The doctors, satisfied, admitted “She is walking like a moving train!” But in a totally unexpected way, at about 3PM today, while she was resting, the Lord sweetly drew her to himself by means of a massive heart attack. Sr. Aurora has been a bit frightened by the idea of illness and death, so the Father, in his infinite benevolence, ushered her into eternal life without her being aware of it.

Sr. Aurora entered the Congregation at Alba on June 2, 1948. At the conclusion of her canonical novitiate, she made her first profession on March 19, 1951. She was sent immediately to carry out the apostolate of San Paolo Film (which was at that time taking its first steps), in the film agencies of Verona and Brescia. But soon her natural artistic gifts were discovered and in 1956, right after her perpetual profession, she was inserted into the community at the House of Writers of Grottaferrata, to illustrate with her paintings our catechetical editions and series of books for children.

From 1961 to 1967 she worked with Sr. Giovanna Grandi as assistant formator for the postulants. With her simplicity and delicacy, she began a most beautiful friendship with this sister, which lasted until the death of Sr. Giovanna. She was then sent to Bari as the local superior and with her artistic sense, was entrusted with the preparation of the minimedia which were diffused greatly through the book centers. She did this first at Alba, and after some years of service in the San Paolo Film Agency at Castro Praetorio, in 1982 she was sent to carry out her service “for Beauty” in the Central Editorial Office at Milan.

She became an “institution” at Milan and was considered a truly special person, an artist. Sober and essential, a person of few words and many deeds as are all the people of Emilia, she possessed and innate taste for beautiful things. Her creativity was inexhaustible. As long as her eyesight permitted, she was a great photographer, attentive to particulars, to shades of color, to light and shadows. From her hands came forth cards and minimedia that were an honor for Pauline Editions.

In the past few years, at Milan, she concentrated her work on the archives with dedication and a love that was truly admirable. She was considered to be the historical memory. She did not need file cards, as attentive as she was to documenting them, because she had everything in her mind. She knew how to give immediate summaries of books that had been published decades ago: the name of the illustrators, the printing plant, the expiration dates for copyrights, etc.

Using poor materials (paper, buttons, iron shavings, nails, paste, etc) she was able to make marvelous things for the community feasts: cards for the sisters, signage for the walls, gifts... She took care of every detail, even the smallest, and everything came out perfect and surprisingly realistic. She poured out her gentleness of spirit on her sisters, who loved her very much, and also on her family, for whom she had sentiments of great delicacy.

While the Church begins the Lenten journey, this dearest sister sings forever praise for the beauty of God, God who is Father and Mother, God who is immense in mercy and tenderness, God to whom Sr. M. Aurora was faithful until death. ...God, who certainly has prepared for her the crown of Life.

With affection

Anna Maria Parenzan
 Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan,
 Vicar General

Rome, February 17, 2010