

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

On this Second Sunday after Christmas, our merciful Father visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to call to the eternal contemplation of his face in heaven our sister:

MOLINATI ROSA – SR. MARIA LILIA
born in Borgo Montoro (Avellino), Italy on 14 March 1936.

Sr. M. Lilia entered the Congregation in Rome on 21 September 1951 at the age of 15. She spent a number of years as an aspirant in that community while waiting to come of age, during which she worked in the technical apostolate and studied philosophy. Afterward, she was transferred to Milan to carry out capillary and collective diffusion in that huge diocese. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1956. As a young professed, she was assigned to the Naples/Capodimonte community, where she worked in the book center. Following this she was transferred to Genoa, where she worked in the diocesan catechetical office. She made her perpetual profession on the Feast of St. Joseph 1961, and in 1965 she was sent as a missionary to Venezuela, where she was placed in charge of the formation of the young candidates in the El Hatillo community.

In 1968, Sr. M. Lilia was appointed superior of the community of Maracaibo, the second largest city of Venezuela, located in a very hot and humid part of the country. While there, she contracted a very dangerous infection that made it necessary for her to undergo surgery twice within a short period of time. Looking back on that experience, she said: “I can’t thank the Lord enough for the goodness and mercy he has shown me through the Congregation.... I felt the joy and fraternal spirit of our religious family and I wrote about it to my mother, who was deeply moved....”

Once she was well enough to travel, Sr. M. Lilia returned to Italy and was hospitalized at Albano. When she had fully recovered her health, she was placed in charge of the small FSP book center located on the main street of that town. In carrying out this apostolate, Sr. M. Lilia forged warm bonds of friendship with the center’s clients. Her kindness and sensitivity to others favored dialogue and opened paths to communicating the Good News.

Sr. M. Lilia soon had the chance to place her gifts of nature and grace at the disposition of the patients of Queen of Apostles Hospital. In 1980, she received a nursing degree and was assigned to the outpatient sector of the hospital, where she was first placed in charge of the blood analysis department, then of x-ray sector and then of the brain scan sector. Later, she worked in the hospital’s archives and administration office.

In May 2002, Sr. M. Lilia asked for a leave of absence from the Institute to care for her elderly mother, who was gravely ill and bound to a wheel chair. But while carrying out this service, she herself suffered a stroke, making it necessary for her to return to Albano immediately. She was admitted to the San Raffaele wing of the community where, along with its other sick and elderly members, she continued to participate in the life of the Congregation and of the Pauline Family as fully as possible. She was asked to take charge of the community bulletin board, which she transformed into an “antenna” on the world, posting news and information in an appealing and interesting way. Within the San Raffaele community, she was always a vigilant and solicitous presence, often expressing the thoughts and feelings of the more feeble and less articulate members of the group.

A few months ago, Sr. M. Lilia’s physical condition began to decline dramatically due to a series of small strokes. But in spite of her sufferings, her smile never wavered. Today, enveloped in the atmosphere of Christmas, she was called to the great joy of contemplating forever the radiant light of God and of singing the hymn of praise and glory that continues to reverberate from heaven to earth.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 3 January 2016