

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

Around 5:30 this morning, at the Queen of Apostles Hospital, the Divine Master called to himself forever our sister,

SR. MARIA AUGUSTA MONTI (EMILIA)
Born in Vertemate con Minoprio (Como) on November 9, 1940

The Sisters who, during these past few years have spent short or longer stays at Casa San Paolo on the grounds of the Generalate, will certainly remember Sr. Augusta who was somewhat the mother there, the factotum, always “ready to serve”, and anxious that all would be functional and beautiful. The walls of this house could tell us about her courage in facing her illness, a hidden cancer that was discovered ten years ago, and for which she underwent with energy and discretion many rounds of chemotherapy. And then came the slow decline, above all last November, when with heartfelt gratitude she accepted a transfer to the Albano community so that she could receive a more adequate treatment.

We all recall her happy laugh, her tremendous strength of soul in overcoming difficulties, the love she had for her Pauline vocation, and her desire to respond always more fully to the Lord’s call. She entered the Congregation in the house of Alba, on March 30, 1965, two years after her sister, Sr. M. Ignazia. At the Mother House she made her Novitiate, concluding with her first profession on June 30, 1969. As a young professed, she was offered the possibility to complete her cultural formation, and she studied for her degree at Albano. She was then sent to Lugano, where she dedicated herself with real apostolic passion to collective propaganda. After her perpetual profession, made in Alba on June 29, 1975, she left for Trapani, in the heart of Sicily, as she had wished for herself. She then had the chance to carry out propaganda in Milan, from the Via Varanini community, which at that time was a very fervent apostolic center, rich in various initiatives. She carried out the office of local superior for two terms in the community of Novara, and then returned to her green valleys at Como and at Lucerne, to serve in the book centers.

She was superior of Lodi, when, in 1998, the superior general invited her to make a big leap of faith, to go to Moscow in order to help in that community which was still in its apostolic and communitarian beginnings. Sr. Augusta’s *Yes* was immediate, as was her *Yes* to serve as superior of the community some months after her arrival there. She did not give a thought to the diversity of cultures, languages, or customs. Her abandonment to the Lord was complete, and her trust in him was without regrets. She wrote from Moscow, in February of 1998: “I have neither the faith of Abraham nor that of Mary, and not much docility, but I think that the Lord, who knows perfectly each of his creatures, knows how to deal with me and will ask me that which I am capable of, as he challenges me continuously...” She was enthusiastic about the Moscow book center: “It is a great joy to see the people stop, interested in the books and music...It is a suffering to be unable to communicate...I try to understand, but I do not always succeed in intuiting correctly. All I can do is smile and laugh at my mistakes”.

The year 2000 surprised her with illness, for which she would return to Italy, to the Generalate. She accepted simply the will of God as it manifested itself, happy to be of service to the sisters from around the world who stayed at the newly built Casa San Paolo for Spiritual Exercises or for various meetings. So it was until a few months ago. The house still echoes with her voice and her presence. And it shines with the cleanliness and orderliness for which Sr. Augusta made no concessions. Now that we think of her in the heart of God, she will continue to have a special love for the sisters who pass through Rome, who come for periods of rest, reflection, or prayer. Thank you, Augusta! We still count on you, and from the depths of our hearts we send our love.


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome February 12, 2010