

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,

Last evening, at 7:00 PM, the Father unexpectedly visited our community in Reggio Emilia to call our sister to eternal life:

SR. ANNA MARIA PRANDI (ELDA GIUSEPPINA)
Born on September 25, 1928 in Carniana Villaminazzo (Reggio Emilia)

Sr. Anna Maria died in the community where she had lived since 1998, whose sisters she loved very much, and who loved her for her goodness, kind soul, and great spirit of sacrifice. In just a few hours, after she experienced an unexpected illness probably caused by a stroke, she met her Lord and Master, to whom she had given, with generosity, every day of her life.

Sr. Anna Maria entered the Congregation at the house of Rome on April 21, 1952. From the beginning of her formation, she placed at the disposition of her sisters her gifts as a seamstress and the apostolic passion that animated her and made her pass through the streets of the Capital with her heavy bag laden with books. At the end of her Novitiate, in Rome she made her first profession on March 19, 1955. Just a few days earlier, Father Alberione had uttered very significant words regarding “collective propaganda”, words that he had carried in his heart for some years. On March 15, 1955, the Founder addressed the sisters who would make first profession and perpetual profession: “Collective propaganda opens the way to an immense amount of good... ‘Blessed are the footsteps of those who carry the Gospel!’ In this year dedicated to the Divine Master, let us concentrate on collective propaganda. Near the tabernacle are the words: ‘I am the Light of the World. You are the light of the world’. And how do we shed light? With propaganda! Jesus from the tabernacle says: ‘From here I wish to enlighten’. You are always blessed, and twice blessed are those who carry out collective propaganda!”

Sr. Anna Maria was called to experience, along with a group of other sisters, the efficacy of this form of apostolate, which proposed not to go out to meet single persons, but to seek out the greatest number possible, using the automobile, telephone, and all the modern forms of promotion and public relations. She embraced this mandate with great courage and faith, and she carried it out in the communities of Terni, Rome, and overseas in Sydney, Australia.

In 1967, after only two years in Australia, she returned to Italy. Her health was steadily declining, and required frequent hospital stays. But Sr. Anna Maria continued to be, in the houses of Rome, Udine, and Reggio Emilia, a presence that irradiated goodness, meekness, and peace. In her simplicity and humility she carried out the precious services of cook, laundress, and the care of the household supplies. She was happy to be able to help and support the sisters who returned home tired from a day in the book center. It was a way for her to feel herself still fully involved in the mission, a mission she continued to carry in her heart, in prayer and daily offering.

The Word, sown with full hands by this dear sister, certainly bore much fruit; it was able to “water, nourish and sprout forth” in the lives of many people, and it made her life full: a life at once fragile and simple, but also rich in graces, blessings and apostolic fruitfulness.

And while we entrust Sister to the mercy of our good Father in heaven, we are certain that we can count on her intercession so that even today from the Pauline apostolate a fire of love may burst forth that will reach all hearts and make them sensitive, open to the mystery of grace.

With affection,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan,
Vicar general

Rome, February 24, 2010