

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

At 8:15 tonight, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to call to himself by means of kidney blockage our sister:

TENAGLIA ERINA – SR. EMILIA
born in Pergola (Pesaro), Italy on 20 January 1921.

Sr. Emilia was a person who quietly and steadfastly spread around her the fragrance of the virtues and the joy of a life fully realized in a spirit of love.

She entered the Congregation in Rome on 21 November 1938 at the age of 18 and spent the period of her initial formation in the communities of Rome, Alba and Pavia. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation journey with her first profession on 19 March 1942. Afterward, she carried out capillary diffusion of the Word of God in Voghera and Pavia. From 1951-1969, Sr. Emilia worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Cremona, Udine, Trieste and Ancona, dedicating herself with love and self-sacrifice to double-checking the films returned to the Agency each week by various parishes and Institutes. She learned to love this form of apostolate, carried out in silence “behind the scenes,” and came to see the sacred quality of the countless films that passed through her hands. In the school of Fr. Alberione, she viewed them as instruments destined to “speak about all things in a Christian way”; to proclaim the Good News of salvation through the language of the cinema.

In 1969, Sr. Emilia began a new stage of her life—a time in which she was destined to evangelize our FSP communities through her serene, joyous, humble and hospitable presence.

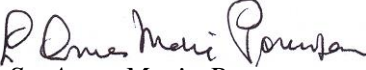
She was called to be “the smile of God” above all in the community of Cicogna, which welcomed groups of sisters for annual retreats and formation encounters. Sr. Emilia’s “golden hands” embellished every part of the house, especially the chapel and garden. She showered on her plants and flowers the same love and care she manifested toward every sister. Even after she was transferred elsewhere, her kindness and friendliness lingered on for many years in the memory of the Cicogna community and the many sisters to whom she had offered hospitality.

In 1978 Sr. Emilia was transferred to Ancona to serve as cook—an apostolate that she carried out with great generosity even though it was hard for her to leave the small Tuscan community she deeply loved. Three years later she was transferred again, this time to the Provincial community in Rome where she was assigned to the service of hospitality and care of the community wardrobes. The last two branch houses in which she lived were Bologna and Livorno, where she continued to wholeheartedly perform various household services. Under her capable hands, every room in the house shone with cleanliness and good order.

In 2010, Sr. Emilia underwent surgery to remove a tumor and upon release from the hospital she was inserted in the James Alberione community, Albano. By now advancing age and poor health had sapped her energy but even though she was unable to leave her bed she continued to greet all her visitors with a big smile. She warmly welcomed the many people who stopped by to see her, grateful for all the good they had received from her witness of life. Although repeated ischemias (restriction of blood to the body’s tissues) eventually robbed her of the ability to speak, this did not stop her from communicating her gratitude in other ways to the caregivers who lovingly assisted her.

Tonight, while the evening prayer of the Church echoed the words of Jesus praising all those who are childlike and humble of heart and thus form part of the kingdom of God, the Lord knocked on the door of Sr. Emilia’s heart and called her to himself. And we are sure that our sister, small and humble as she was, warmly and eagerly welcomed the Spouse for whom she had been waiting and to whom she had lovingly dedicated her entire life.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parezan
Superior General

Rom, 3 October 2015