

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

At 10:30 p.m. yesterday night, the Lord once more passed among us, this time stopping in the city hospital of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

BECCHIS MADDALENA – SR. ASSUNTA MARIA
born in Ternavasso Poirino (Turin), Italy on 27 December 1925.

Sr. Assunta, an able and active member of the Turin community up until just a short time ago, was transferred to Alba last July due to health problems involving her heart, lungs and blood circulation. Almost immediately upon her arrival, she had to be admitted to the city hospital, and when she was released, the deterioration of her condition had reduced her to a wheelchair and required her to receive oxygen support. It was speculated that her rapid decline in health was also influenced by an infection that provoked anemia and made it hard for her to breathe.

Sr. Assunta entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 12 June 1945, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. M. Giovanna. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1948. Immediately afterward, she was sent to Livorno, where she carried out capillary and collective diffusion of the Word with great enthusiasm. A responsible and sociable person, she was soon recalled to Alba to serve as errand-runner for the community. Following this, she was assigned to the Lodi book center and from there she was transferred to Brescia, where she worked for several years in the St. Paul Film Agency. Sr. Assunta firmly believed that the cinema apostolate was a powerful instrument of evangelization and she dedicated herself to learning the language of films so as to propose suitable movies to various categories of people. Later, her training and experience in bookkeeping enabled her to make a good contribution to services in the secretary's office at Albano and the administration department in Rome.


In 1970, Sr. Assunta was appointed superior of the Chieti community and then was asked to carry out the same office in Reggio Calabria. Afterward, she returned to her beloved Turin book center, where she worked with great zeal for the next 20 years. Following this, she was transferred to Naples. Although accustomed to giving her "all" to the book center apostolate, Sr. Assunta never neglected the communitarian dimension of the Pauline life. Like the Apostle, she felt herself to be an "apostle of Jesus Christ" in every situation of life. She willingly assisted her superiors, especially with bookkeeping matters and bank transactions. In 2008, she returned to Turin, happy to once again be in her "native land."

Sr. Assunta will always be remembered as a kind, good, serene, serviceable and discreet person. Her humorous remarks often helped to diffuse tense situations. In 1977, she wrote to her Superior General: "How much God loves me! How much he loves all of us! His gift-giving is amazing and when we accept those gifts in simplicity and poverty, our days are filled with joy, peace and intimacy with him. It really is worth it to surrender oneself completely to this Love that makes us new creatures!"

We think of Sr. Assunta as now forming part of the choir of Pauline saints in heaven. Let us entrust to her not only the communities of the Italian Province in which she lived and worked, but also all our sisters throughout the world, in a special way our young sisters preparing to make their perpetual professions. Some of these sisters spent time in the Turin community learning Italian and they were always welcomed with great warmth by Sr. Assunta. On her 60th anniversary of profession, she wrote: "We shouldn't be afraid. Instead, we should open our doors to the Spirit, who continues to work his marvels in us and around us every day."

The continual visits of the Lord to our Institute in these days invite us to see the radiant light of the resurrection in everything and should strengthen our confidence that we are powerfully protected by the intercessory prayers of our "Pauline community" in heaven.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 12 October 2015