

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

We just received the unexpected news that the risen Lord visited St. Ursula Hospital, Bologna, Italy at 9:15 tonight to call to his eternal presence our sister:

BEGHELLI LUIGIA – SR. M. ARMANDA
born in Villafranca (Verona), Italy on 14 May 1929.

Yesterday, Sr. M. Armanda was admitted to the hospital because she was feeling very ill and the doctors could not find the cause of her pain. It turned out that she was suffering from an infection that quickly attacked her kidneys, liver and other vital organs. Our sisters in Bologna are still overwhelmed by the rapidity with which everything took place. Just a few days ago two members of the General Government made the Fraternal Visit to the Bologna community and found Sr. M. Armanda full of life and vitality, happy to continue her service in the laundry room and keeping the community's wardrobes and supply closets in order—duties which she carried out willingly and conscientiously. Her famous smile revealed her joy at following the Divine Master and dedicating all her energies to the Pauline mission.

Sr. M. Armanda entered the Congregation in Alba on 14 September 1950. She spent the period of her initial formation working in the shipping department there. Afterward, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1954.

As a young professed, Sr. M. Armanda carried out the “propaganda” apostolate in the dioceses of Rome, Treviso and Ancona. After her perpetual profession, she was assigned to the book center apostolate, which she carried out with zeal and professional competence in Ancona, Treviso, Belluno, Trieste, Tortona, Livorno, Mestre and Trent. These centers were not only the places of her daily self-offering to the Lord but also of her spiritual and apostolic growth. Sr. M. Armanda was a serene and joyous person—her big smile was always a magnet to everyone who entered the book center in search of good reading material or even just a word of consolation and hope. She was a very sociable person, with a deep desire to share with others the great gift of faith she had cultivated throughout her life. During her years of initial formation, her formators and superiors were unanimous in saying that she was a cheerful and talkative person, very sociable and ready to do whatever was asked of her.

Sr. M. Armanda carried out the service of superior for three years in the community of San Benedetto del Tronto, then spent 1997-2001 caring for her brother Fabio, who was seriously ill. It was with great reluctance that she asked for a leave of absence from the Congregation in order to carry out this service, but she loved her brother very much and he had no one else to assist him. His death was a deep suffering to her and she remarked afterward that she would never forget how he kissed the crucifix devoutly and squeezed her hand one last time before drawing his last breath.

Convinced that the Lord was guiding her every footstep, Sr. M. Armanda re-entered the Congregation in the community of Mestre; in 2004 she was transferred to Bologna. She spent the last years of her life in this community, carrying out various household services with simplicity and joy, and cultivating her interior life through profound union with the Lord. On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee of religious profession, she wrote: “I thank the Lord every day for calling me to be a Daughter of St. Paul.” Her words capsule what she had said many years earlier, namely: “I am happy and content to remain wherever the will of God sends me and to carry out whatever apostolate is entrusted to me.”

Although Sr. M. Armanda passed to eternity very quickly and unexpectedly, we are sure that she was ready for the Lord's call and that she has already received her eternal reward. From the side of Jesus Master, may she now intercede for her community and for our Italian Province, which she deeply loved.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 3 May 2015