

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

At 4:45 p.m. today, the Lord once again visited our Congregation, stopping by the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to call to “the other shore” our sister:

MAZZONI SR. MARIA EGIDIA
born in Cantiano (Pesaro), Italy on 20 December 1932.

Sr. Egidia entered the Congregation in Rome on 1 September 1952. After a period of formation, she was sent to Avellino to carry out capillary diffusion. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1956, at the end of a course of spiritual exercises guided by Fr. Alberione.

As a young professed, Sr. Egidia continued to enthusiastically carry out the “propaganda” apostolate to families and collectivities in the communities of Cosenza, Grosseto, Rome and Nuoro. In 1972, she was assigned to the FSP book center located in downtown Albano. Afterward, she worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies in Rome and Turin for several years.

In 1981, she returned to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano to carry out various services for the community and at the same time continue her beloved “propaganda” apostolate, moving up and down the hospital hallways with a trolley filled with books and magazines to offer the patients. In carrying out this service, she took special joy in visiting the children’s ward. She truly “passed by doing good” because she had a gift for establishing positive relations with others thanks to her friendly personality and big smile. Her funny stories were proverbial and she had one for every occasion.... But Sr. Egidia did not confine herself to humorous exchanges. Once she had won the confidence of the patients and their visitors, she would invite them to accompany her to the hospital’s chapel, where she would read the liturgy of the day with them, recite the rosary and encourage them to go to confession.

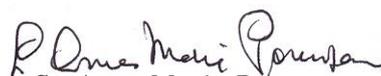
How many people established a simple and fraternal rapport with Sr. Egidia and how many of them encountered the merciful face of the Father, taking a humorous story as their starting point! Several years ago, while making her annual spiritual exercises, Sr. Egidia wrote: “I can’t wait to get back to the patients at the hospital to lift their spirits a little, including through jokes and funny stories!”

In the community, Sr. Egidia was the first to prepare for festive occasions by decorating her surroundings and irradiating to everyone a spirit of love and communion. She acknowledged in her personal notes that her life had been characterized by a chain of graces. Her sensitivity to the spirit gave motivation to her life. During another course of spiritual exercises, she noted: “In these days, the readings from the Acts of the Apostles moved me to tears.”

During the last stage of her life, Sr. Egidia suffered from cancer of the bladder, which caused her great suffering. Last February she underwent surgery to slow down its spread but the results were not satisfactory. With great faith and humility, she surrendered herself into the hands of her doctors and nurses, who surrounded her with affectionate care. Aware of the seriousness of her condition, she prepared herself for her upcoming meeting with her Lord and Master, saying that she ardently desired to be ready for that important encounter. She could often be seen making the sign of the cross—an expression of her yearning to be a temple of the Blessed Trinity.

For Sr. Egidia, the decisive moment of transition to eternal life came peacefully and today she was finally able to contemplate the face of her Lord and respond to him with the enthusiasm and profound conviction of the Apostle Peter in the Gospel of the day: “Lord, you alone have words of eternal life and I believe in you....”

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 23 August 2015