

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

We received the news that at 3:30 p.m. yesterday, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel visited our Boston, U.S.A. community to lead to the house of the Father our sister:

TUBICK VIOLET SR. MARY GABRIELLA
born in Bay City (MI), United States on 27 July 1933.

Sr. M. Gabriella entered the Congregation in the community of Boston on 11 October 1957 at a relatively mature age. She was quickly admitted to the novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1959. Immediately afterward, she finished her studies and learned how to operate the linotype machine. Her expertise at proof-reading enabled her to make an important contribution to the publishing sector and, in fact, finding typographical errors became something of a specialty for her. For many years she felt it her duty to read the books printed by our Boston typography and give the sisters in the editorial department a list of corrections to be made in future reprints.

In 1968, Sr. Gabriella was sent to Lahore, Pakistan. She joyfully welcomed this call to the missions but unfortunately her sojourn there did not last long because she came down with a serious form of jaundice. After a short time in Australia, she returned to the United States in 1972.

The cultural training Sr. Gabriella had received in her family and honed in the Congregation allowed her to dedicate herself at different periods of her Pauline life to teaching the province's young women in formation, but the majority of her time was spent in diffusion and other forms of evangelization in the book centers of Boston, Cleveland, Anchorage, Chicago, Honolulu, Charleston, St. Louis, New Orleans and Los Angeles. She also served one term as superior of the Anchorage community.

In 1982, Sr. Gabriella pursued specialized studies in library science and put the fruit of her training to good use by reorganizing and running our Boston community library for several years.

Her letter to Maestra Ignazia Balla, dated May 1964, in which she requested admittance to perpetual profession, reveals her heart and her commitment to observing the religious life well. She wrote: "With the help of the Divine Master, I want and I promise to be his faithful daughter and to strive to conform myself to the will of God as revealed through my superiors and our Constitutions." Sr. M. Gabriella remained faithful to this promise throughout her life.

For the past few years the state of her health was a cause for concern. In 2002, she underwent surgery to remove part of her right lung. The result was satisfactory and when she returned home Sr. M. Gabriella was able to resume her apostolic activities. She was asked to help the sisters in the Province's development office in Boston in the search for funds to support the Pauline mission. She contributed to this work above all through correspondence with the circumscription's benefactors.

But Sr. M. Gabriella's lung problems continued to worsen. Her breathing became more and more labored and she was obliged to take an oxygen tank with her wherever she went. But in spite of this, she never lost her serenity or her sense of humor. Although she was no longer able to play ping pong (her favorite game), she nevertheless tried to remain self-sufficient, offering the other sisters words filled with wisdom and the example of interior strength.

In these last days, her sister, Sr. Paulyne, a Notre Dame Sister stationed in Africa, was due to arrive in Boston but Sr. M. Gabriella was not looking forward to this visit because she did not want her sister to see the reality her health situation. The Divine Master accepted Sr. Gabriella's request by hastening the hour of her call to heaven, but not before allowing her one last taste of her favorite sweet in anticipation of the "sweetness" of eternal life awaiting her in heaven.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 17 July 2015