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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

At 6:30 this morning one of our sisters, a patient in the new Hospital of the Castelli zone, Albano, Italy, was called to heaven to celebrate the glory of the Resurrection in all its fullness:

**DEMONTIS GIOVANNA MARIA – SR. MARIA VITTORIA**  
**born in Ossi (Sassari), Italy on 1 October 1927.**

In her simplicity, goodness and transparency of life, Sr. Maria Vittoria was the “wise woman” who carefully tended her lamp of faith and hope, and who diffused the fragrance of Christ in our midst and among the people. She entered the Congregation in the house of Rome on 10 March 1952 and immediately put her skills as a dressmaker at the service of the community. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1955. She celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession with joy and thanksgiving the year our Institute celebrated its Centenary. On that occasion, she wrote: “From the depths of my heart wells up a *Miserere* for my many failures to correspond to the solicitations of God, but nevertheless I feel sustained by the merciful love of the Divine Master, who has always been beside me. To him, my praise and heartfelt thanksgiving. I am living this period of my life in tune with the *Magnificat*. With the help of our Queen, I want to live as intensively as possible the time that remains to me....”

Indeed, Sr. Vittoria lived every period of her life with great intensity, starting with her first years in the Congregation, during which she dedicated herself with love and enthusiasm to capillary and collective diffusion in the diocese of Trapani and then to service in the book centers of Palermo, Rome, Ferrara, Nuoro and Livorno. Following this, she was called to accompany the communities of Ferrara, Aquila and Taranato as local superior—a service she carried out with a deep sense of belonging, dedication and love.

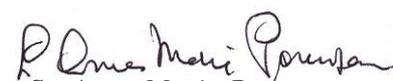
Even in her senior years, Sr. Vittoria continued to spread peace, serenity and welcome in the communities of Lecce and Livorno, where she left an indelible imprint on the sisters who shared her life and mission. In Lecce, in particular, while she was managing the book center’s religious objects department, she radiated a positive outlook and a great love for priests, many of whom often sought her out to receive her words of encouragement and faith.

Sr. Vittoria was always prompt to help the sisters. She was attentive to the various needs of the community, ready to accompany the sister in charge of vocation work or to support those guiding groups of Cooperators. She had a wonderful ability to instill courage in others and to help new arrivals in the community insert themselves well in it. Above all, Sr. Vittoria took her spiritual journey and her relationship with the Lord very seriously. The Word was truly the lamp that illuminated her footsteps, the point of reference for her entire existence. She also strove to be faithful to what she had learned from the lips of the Founder and Maestra Thecla.

In Livorno, in 2016, she was called to experience the suffering that accompanied the closure of our house there and her subsequent transfer to the Thecla Merlo community of Albano. But she was able to see the hand of God in these events and manifested her willingness to accept his dispositions, writing: “I am happy to be here [at Albano] and to lend a hand in the community wherever I can. But most of all, I am glad for the chance to deepen my prayer life.” And Sr. Vittoria truly prepared herself, day after day, with faith and love, for this all-important moment, which arrived rather suddenly. In the last few days, a persistent fever made it advisable for her to be re-tested for Covid-19. The results were negative, but she was admitted to the new hospital in the Castelli zone on Easter evening. And this morning we received the news that the gates of the kingdom of heaven had already opened for her. Sr. Vittoria’s passage to eternity took place in silence and solitude, like that of so many other people in this particular time. But we can imagine that, in this silence, her eyes opened wide with joy as she recognized that Jesus Master, the great love of her life, had come to accompany her personally to heaven.

Affectionately,

Rome, 15 April 2020

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan