

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

At 2:00 p.m. today, the Divine Master visited our Divine Providence community in Alba, Italy to accompany to the eternal house of the Father our sister:

COMINASSI GIOCONDA – SR. MARIA CANDIDA
born in Cedegolo (Bresica), Italy on 28 January 1928.

Sr. Candida entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 1 December 1942 at the age of 14, bringing as her “dowry” the Christian wealth and the hard-working spirit of the people of the Lombard region. It was a time of great poverty but also a time rich in beautiful and convinced young women eager to dedicate their lives to the Lord. A report from the Brescia community reads: “In the early 1940’s, our Institute gained great esteem from the authorities due to the exemplary conduct of the sisters. Perhaps it was because of this that the Lord showered us with benefits, including a flowering of vocations. The priests, who were familiar with our spirit, gladly sent young women interested in the religious life to us. Within four years, about thirty of them entered. One of these was Gioconda Cominassi.”

After a time of formation and work in the technical apostolate, she was sent to Pavia to carry out the itinerant apostolate. It was May 1945, and World War II had just ended. Afterward, she returned to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on the Feast of St. Joseph, 19 March 1947. As a young professed, Sr. Candida dedicated herself with zeal to the “propaganda” mission in the communities of Novara and Turin. In 1959, she was transferred to Lugano, Switzerland, where she continued to disseminate the Gospel in the country’s Alpine valleys.

In 1967, Sr. Candida was assigned to the Salerno community and began her service in our Pauline book centers. During that period, she wrote to her provincial superior: “As for the apostolate, I gladly do whatever I am asked to do. I don’t want to be considered available for one kind of work alone. Instead, I want to be ready to do anything.” The life of this dear sister was characterized by this docility, as well as by great goodness, discretion, simplicity and the desire to place her whole being at the service of her sisters and the Pauline mission.

With her habitual availability, in 1974 she accepted the request to carry out the service of local superior in Foggia. At the end of her mandate, she returned to the Campania region to continue the book center apostolate in Naples and Salerno. Her friendly personality made it easy for her to harmonize with the open and joyful character of the people of this region. She became “small” with the little ones, welcoming every category of people into our apostolic center with a big smile. In 1993 she was sent first to Campobasso and then to Massa, Domodossola and Mestre to continue the ministry of proclaiming the Word.

From 1999 on, Sr. Candida was a member of the Divine Providence community, Alba, where she dedicated herself, day after day for almost 20 years, with her customary availability, to the technical apostolate (especially the folding machine), as well as to refectory duties and the ministry of hospitality. Her life in the Motherhouse was marked by fidelity to her daily duties in a profound spirit of prayer, which gave meaning and joy to her tireless self-donation. She was especially happy to be asked to serve the priests of the parish when they were invited to dinner, attending to their needs with solicitude and benevolence so as to make them feel at home.

Sr. Candida spent the last three years of her life in the infirmary of the Alba community due to various health problems linked to advancing age. From there, she continued to radiate peace and a profound transparency of life, while serenely awaiting the coming of her Lord and Master. Yesterday evening, she was still vigilant when she received with gratitude and faith the anointing of the sick and the blessing “in articulo mortis.” At that point, she was ready to cross the threshold to eternal life and receive the reward promised to good apostles.

With deep gratitude, we place Sr. Candida in the arms of Mary, Queen of Apostles, asking her to lead our dear sister to the fullness of new life in the kingdom of the saints. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 12 May 2020