



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

At 7:30 a.m. today, God, our merciful Father, visited the Divine Providence community of Rome, Italy, to call to fullness of life our sister:

SCANO VITALIA – SR. MARIA LORETA
born in Serrenti (Cagliari), Italy on 18 September 1935.

Sr. M. Loreta belonged to a big and beautiful Sardinian family, rich in love and faith. With a great desire to do good to others through the Pauline mission, she entered the Congregation on 10 November 1955 in the community of Rome. Before beginning her novitiate, she was sent to Terni for a period of apostolic experience.

She made her first profession in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, Rome, on 30 June 1959. During the course of spiritual exercises in preparation for this important event, Fr. Alberione guided several very significant meditations for the novices on the theme of love for the Institute and the need to make continual progress so as to “do everything always better.” We can affirm that Sr. M. Loreta took his words to heart because she truly made the effort to grow, make progress and do everything as well as possible throughout her life.

During her Juniorate, she spent almost 5 years in the Caltanissetta community, where she dedicated her energies with dynamism and love to the book center apostolate. After her perpetual profession, made in Rome in 1964, she continued her apostolic service in the book centers of Messina, Cagliari, Rimini, Sassari, Livorno, Castro Pretorio (Rome), Salerno, Reggio Calabria and Naples. She had the chance to deepen her cultural preparation from 1969-1970 in Milan, and from 1977-1981 she worked in the FSP Center for Non-Pauline Editions, where she put to good use her apostolic skills by providing our book centers with the new editions produced by other publishing houses.

But Sr. M. Loreta will be remembered above all for her sensitivity and preparation in the languages of communication, especially the areas of cinema and music. In the book centers, she managed the audiovisual sector. Audiocassettes, CDs and musical scores held no secrets for her: she was able to confidently find the songs requested by customers or suggest to them the most appropriate music for uplifting and beautifying the Liturgy so as to help the faithful participate in it more fully.

Sr. M. Loreta also had a true passion for films: she kept herself updated about new releases in this field, reading their story lines and the reviews about them published in trade magazines. She was always ready to suggest a suitable film for times of reflection, study or entertainment. The sisters who lived and worked with her remember her precision, dignified bearing and competence in interacting with the priests, religious and laity who flocked to our apostolic centers. “To do everything as well as possible” was truly her motto.

Sr. M. Loreta was assigned to our Naples community in 2007 and it was there that the first signs began to emerge that she was gradually losing her memory. In 2013 she was transferred to the infirmary of the Divine Providence community, Rome, where she lived in serenity and peace until her death. She was still able to recall the communities and book centers in which she had lived unforgettable moments, but immediately afterward darkness would engulf her mind. She suffered a lot, especially because of ongoing asthma attacks, which made it very hard for her to breathe. About a month ago, Sr. M. Loreta was hospitalized to alleviate this problem but then she returned to the community. And it was precisely this serious respiratory problem that led to her definitive encounter with her Lord and Master.

It is wonderful to imagine that today an angel of the Lord approached her, as happened with the deacon Philip, and invited her to get up and embark on a new life. In the light of this, the words of the Founder just before her first profession take on special meaning: “Death is not a sunset, but a dawn—the sunset of our present life of misery, poverty and uncertainty, and the dawn of a happy eternal life.”

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 30 April 2020