

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At about 8:00 a.m. today, God our good Father visited our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to reward one of its members for her untiring apostolic life:

FORMAGLIO ANTONIA – SR. GIUSEPPINA
born in Lusia (Rovigo), Italy on 29 June 1925.

When Sr. Giuseppina celebrated her 70th anniversary of religious profession a few years ago, she expressed her great joy for “the wonderful grace of my vocation, the firm point for living my faith in times of particular difficulty.” And she added: “As I approach this last, most important goal, I want to accept with humility and trust the invitation of the Lord, who says: ‘Surrender yourself to me in your poverty.’”

These simple words encapsulate our sister’s whole life, which she donated to God with joy and enthusiasm while she was still very young. In fact, she entered the Congregation on 6 January 1940, at the age of 15. She quickly learned to move very nimbly around the bindery and then to experience the joys and fatigues of the “propaganda” apostolate in Reggio Emilia. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1946.

As a young professed, Sr. Giuseppina continued to carry out the Institute’s itinerant mission in the Puglia, Bari and Taranto dioceses, bringing the Word of God and the gift of her unflinching smile to countless families in these regions. But she is remembered above all for her tireless, generous service in our book centers. A sister overflowing with grace, she had the rare ability to draw to the Lord the people she met. In Gorizia (especially in the Monfalcone book center, where she spent more than 10 years) and afterward in Perugia, Ascoli Piceno, Pordenone, Ancona, Massa and Livorno successively, she offered people not only books but also the wealth of love she carried in her heart. She had a special fondness for families and in Ancona in particular she is remembered as “the mother of families” thanks to her ability to “tiptoe” into those environments and suggest to the people the kind of love that went beyond the usual standards. It was Sr. Giuseppina who, with simplicity and faith, initiated the first couples of the Holy Family Institute in the diocese of Ancona to a life of Pauline consecration. And it was she who directed several priests toward consecration in the “Jesus the Priest” Institute. She had the gift of doing the simplest things with great goodness and profound conviction.

In San Benedetto, she carried out the service of superior for 3 years. And when it was necessary for her to withdraw from book center activities, she continued to dedicate herself with maternal tenderness to various household services in the communities of Rimini, Rovigo, Turin and La Spezia.

In 2003, Sr. Giuseppina was transferred to the Divine Providence community, Alba, where she continued to help out, especially in the refectory, in simple kitchen work, and in the care of the community’s elderly and sick sisters. She always carried priests, families and their needs in her heart. She was happy to be asked to prepare the room in which the members of the Holy Family Institute held their meetings. She wanted to transmit to as many people as possible the gift of the charism that had made her own life so beautiful. In this regard she wrote: “I will never tire of saying: *How great is the goodness of the Lord!*”

In recent months, Sr. Giuseppina experienced acute physical and spiritual suffering due to a fall that caused some of her lumbar vertebrae to collapse, but she never ceased thanking her caregivers for their attention to her every need. With deep gratitude, she would kiss the hands of the nurses who assisted her and assure them of her unceasing prayers for them.

Let us entrust to Sr. Giuseppina, who at this extreme moment placed herself completely in the hands of the Father, the many families she knew and directed to the Lord. Let us also recommend to her prayers the nurses toward whom she felt such gratitude, asking the Lord to pour out his blessings abundantly on them.

Affectionately,

Rome, 21 July 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan