

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,

Early this morning, one of the sisters living in the infirmary wing of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy, “fell asleep in the Lord”:

**AIMASSO MARGHERITA – SR. AUSILIA**  
**born in Diano d’Alba (Cuneo), Italy on 5 December 1910.**

This dear sister, who had almost reached the venerable age of 99, was one of our sisters of the “first hour.” She entered the Congregation in Alba on 27 October 1927—a time of great spiritual and apostolic fervor in our newly-founded Institute. In that same year, Maestra Thecla took down notes from our Founder’s preachings that would give direction to the whole Pauline life: “Now we see the way to follow so as to reach holiness,” he said. “We must have a model to imitate, and for us this model is Jesus Way and Truth and Life. It is the Divine Master who will teach us and trace out the way for us. Indeed, he *is* our Way....”

The constant concern of our first members was to follow the Divine Master with great humility and faith, starting from Bethlehem. Sr. Ausilia absorbed this attitude to the full and was ready and willing to do the will of God, even when it seemed he was asking her to do things beyond her abilities. In fact, she had not yet made her profession when, on 11 Feb. 1929, she and a Pious Disciple were sent to accompany the community of Cagliari, which M. Thecla and Sr. Clelia Bianco had opened just a few days earlier. Sr. Ausilia always remembered the joy of going on propaganda with Prima Maestra who, she said, “walked at full speed and with great love and zeal up and down the many staircases leading to the homes in the older part of town.”

In 1933, Sr. Ausilia returned to Alba to make her novitiate, concluding it with her profession on 20 August 1934—the year in which the Pauline Family celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation. Seventy-five years of consecration, lived in love, total self-offering, great humility and serenity.... Sr. Ausilia’s studies were limited to the completion of elementary school, but her faith in the Pact enabled her to collaborate with the Local Churches in which she lived and worked and to help our Pauline communities make continual apostolic progress.

Immediately after her profession, she was appointed superior of the community of Taranto, which had been opened the year before. She then continued her service as superior without a pause in Reggio Emilia, again Tarnato, Cagliari, Bari, Genoa, Catanzaro and Bologna. She was appointed superior of Taranto for a third mandate, and then superior of Mantua. In 1972, while a member of the Vercelli community, she and Sr. Olimpia Tuninetti opened a new FSP community in Biella. In 1974, Sr. Ausilia was asked to carry out a final service of authority as the superior of Genoa. After a short time Tortona in 1979, she was then transferred to Alba, where she spent the last 20 years of her life enriching our Motherhouse with her wisdom through her services as group leader, local councilor, sacristan and phone-and-door duty.

Sr. Ausilia’s kindness, goodness and friendliness were proverbial. The sisters who knew her say that a person could extol her virtues at length without fearing to exaggerate. The distinguishing features of her life clearly emerge in a letter she wrote to her provincial superior in the late 1960’s: “My only desire,” she said on that occasion, “is to do the will of God serenely, to always be ready to obey, and to carry out my duties with love, humility and trust. I deeply feel the need of divine help so as to become holy.”

Sr. Ausilia spent the last years of her life in silence in the Alba infirmary. When she spoke, it was always to express her gratitude to others, never to complain, even though she suffered from very painful bedsores. In one of the last letters she wrote, she once again thanked the Superior General, saying: “With profound joy, I sincerely thank the Lord and the Congregation for all the good I have received....” Sr. Ausilia always saw good in everything!

Today we in our turn want to thank the Lord for our sister’s long life in the Congregation, for the beauty she irradiated around her, and for her witness to fidelity and joy. We are sure that now that she has joined the Pauline Family in heaven, she will continue her service as superior, mother and guardian of our communities. Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
*Vicar General*

Rome, 21 August 2009