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Dearest Sisters,

At about 12:30 p.m. on this First Sunday of Advent, the Lord visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

CARAMORI MARIA EGSILDE – SR. M. ANGIOLINA
born in Bergantino (Rovigo), Italy on 6 December 1925.

For the past several months, Sr. M. Angiolina had been keeping watch for the coming of her Spouse. The doctors and nurses who assisted her and who monitored the course of her decline due to the double affliction of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases marveled at the way in which she unexplainably rallied after each crisis. During the last few weeks of her life she was no longer able to eat, but her sensitivity to everyone and everything around her increased. It seemed as if our sister had made a pact with the Lord, who continued to keep her alive in spite of her great sufferings, although we will never know the reason he allowed her to endure such a long and arduous agony. The sisters who took care of Sr. M. Angiolina during this period say that she was fully aware of what was going on around her up until just a few moments before her death. The difficult journey she made in these last few years to accept her situation of complete dependence on others was transformed, during the last stage of her life, into docile surrender into the hands of the Father. We can truly say that she offered her body as a sacrifice to the Lord although the "why" behind her tortured oblation will always remain his secret.

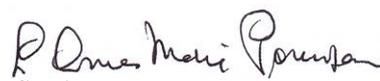
Sr. M. Angiolina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 21 Oct. 1939. Even though she was only 14 years old, she was sent to Como to carry out the diffusion apostolate. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1947. As a young professed, she worked in the newly-opened St. Paul Film Agency in Brescia. Chronicles of the times recount how the hands of the FSP pioneers in the film apostolate would tremble while handling the strips of film because they considered them to be sacred. The account of the Brescia Agency also records the joy of both the sisters and viewers at the premiere of the film "Mater Dei."

In 1955, Sr. M. Angiolina was appointed superior of the Lodi community, whose members carried out the Pauline apostolate and vocation work with particular zeal. They held Gospel and Marian Days in the diocese and organized many vocation encounters for young women. The FSP book center, located in the heart of the city, was a beehive of apostolic activity and vocational orientation for the local Church. In 1959, Sr. M. Angiolina was transferred to the newly-opened community of Asti, and subsequently to Aosta and Verona, where she once again served as local superior. At the end of her term of office, she worked for a time Rome, in the sector that ordered editions from other publishers. In the years that followed, she was assigned to the book centers of Asti, Ferrara, Treviso, Bologna and Trent successively. Wherever she went, Sr. M. Angiolina promoted a climate of hospitality and apostolic zeal and was always on the look-out for possible vocations, to whom she yearned to communicate the wealth of the Pauline charism. It was while she was in Trent that the first signs of her debilitating illness began to emerge.

In June 1963, Maestra Thecla wrote the following note to Sr. M. Angiolina on the back of a holy card: "Always aim for holiness.... Only in obedience will you find peace.... It is when we have some sufferings to offer God that we are most serene and content, right?" Sr. M. Angiolina suffered greatly and offered all those sufferings to the Lord. When she celebrated her 50th anniversary of profession in 1997, she gave everyone a holy card bearing a message that revealed her desire to always remain in the heart of God: "Thank you, Jesus, for your fidelity. Everything I have experienced in life speaks to me of you, and what I live today, I live in you."

This dear sister of ours lived and died in the Lord. Now she serenely awaits the glorious return of Christ as Judge and Savior, whom we invoke in today's Liturgy.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 29 November 2009