

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

At 6:45 p.m. today, God the Father visited our IV Novembre community of Albano, Italy to call to the joy of eternal life our sister:

MICHELETTI SR. GILDE
born in Candia (Ancona), Italy on 17 March 1922.

Sr. Gilde were to meet the Lord in a spirit of profound faith and docility. A few days ago, she said to her doctor: "I'm ready to go whenever God is ready to take me." She did not have to wait long for the Father's call because three days ago she developed brain fever and slipped into a coma. Sr. Gilde had been in the IV Novembre community, Albano since last May. She and several other seriously ill sisters had been transferred there from the Thecla Merlo community because the newly-renovated IV Novembre building is now better equipped to care for our sisters who require long-term assistance. When she first arrived in the Thecla Merlo community, Sr. Gilde found it very hard to accept the fact that her health and energy were steadily declining, as marked by first her need for a cane, then for a wheelchair and finally the inability to leave her bed. But during the last period of her life, her strong character gradually softened and she became more accepting of her situation. She witnessed to the fact that the grace of God was preparing her for the definitive call to eternal life, saying frequently: "It's time I went to heaven." Her face would light with a beautiful smile especially when she was taken to chapel to visit Jesus in the Eucharist. And when her condition had reached the point where she could no longer leave her bed, she would smile at him when he came to her in holy communion.

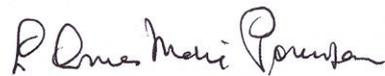
Sr. Gilde entered the Congregation in Alba on 11 March 1939. Looking back on that day, she wrote: "I entered the Institute of the Daughters of St. Paul with the firm decision to do everything that was asked of me by obedience."

She was immediately assigned to the propaganda apostolate, which she carried out in Rovigo. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1943. Afterward, she returned to the mission of diffusing the Word of God to families and collectivities in Naples, Rome, La Spezia, Ivrea and Cagliari successively.

As a young professed she told the Superior General that she was willing to carry out the Pauline mission overseas, but she was never assigned to a community outside of Italy. From 1972-1978, she lived in the Via Bosio and Castro Pretorio communities of Rome and worked in the St. Paul Film Agency. After a short time in Perugia in 1979, she agreed to the request of the Superior General to accept a transfer to Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, which at that time was going through a crisis. She worked in the kitchen there until the hospital's situation restabilized. In 1987, Sr. Gilde returned to the Italian province, where she lived in the communities of Castro Pretorio (Rome), Bologna and Bosio (Rome), successively. She also carried out the service of cook at Tor San Lorenzo during vacation periods.

In 2005, Sr. Gilde's declining health made it necessary to transfer her to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano. She had written on leaflet this brief message: "When I die, I want to entrust myself to the goodness of the Lord. I also want to thank the Congregation for everything I received from it." We now place in the tender, loving hands of the heavenly Father our sister, who loved her Pauline vocation, served her sisters devotedly and sought throughout her life to generously and joyously correspond to the gift she had received.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 25 August 2009