

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

At about noon today, God the Father visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

RUFFO LUIGIA – SR. M. RITA
born in Albaro (Verona), Italy on 18 December 1923.

Sr. M. Rita was a Pauline apostle who loved the Word of God more than life itself and who channeled all her energy into bringing it to others through various forms of diffusion and her own communicational skills. It is very significant that the Lord in his infinite providence called her to himself on the Feast of St. Jerome, the doctor of the Church who dedicated himself tirelessly to making the Word known to everyone so that it might nourish their lives.

Sr. M. Rita entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 16 March 1948 and was immediately sent to carry out the propaganda apostolate in Trent. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. In a conference to help the members of her novitiate group prepare for this step, Fr. Alberione said: “Lean on the arm of Jesus in the Eucharist. He will be your strength, your support and your consolation, not only in happy times but also in sad and difficult times.” In the company of Jesus, Sr. Rita lived with serenity and great faith every situation presented to her by life. For more than 10 years, she was an ardent and enthusiastic propagandist in Cremona, Genoa, Brescia and Trent. In 1963, after a short time in Naples, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film sector, a completely new form of apostolate for her. She carried out this mission with great generosity for 12 years, first in Trent and then in Reggio Emilia. She also took a course in typing so as to perform her duties better.

In 1982, Sr. Rita was transferred to the Divine Providence community of Alba. At first she worked in the bindery but then she was asked to respond to the many needs of the large community through service as a driver and errand-runner. Because she felt that she was an apostle at all times, she took every opportunity to establish a rapport with people, whether the context was a supermarket, a warehouse, a hospital waiting room, etc. The people of Alba came to know this vivacious, sunny-tempered sister very well. Sr. Rita possessed the art of carrying out her duties competently and at the same time looking deeply into the hearts of the people with whom she came in contact so as to offer them words of consolation and hope. For the last fifteen years of her life, she too bore the cross of suffering: she first lost her sight and then her hearing, which made it very hard for her to keep in touch with the many people who stopped by to visit her.

But illness did not discourage Sr. Rita nor diminish her love for the Congregation and the Pauline mission. In these last days, she rejoiced to learn that our Alba bindery would be working on a new pocket edition of the Bible and we like to think that her prayers in this time were concentrated on this apostolic endeavor, begging God to pour out an abundance of grace on all the people who will read the text and asking him to help them find in it a source of life.

Things happened very rapidly after that. Lung and circulation problems made it harder and harder for Sr. Rita to breathe and today a build-up of fluid in her lungs led to her death. Now, at long last, she is able to see the Lord she longed for all her life “face to face,” hear his words of love and follow in his footsteps eternally.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 30 September 2009