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

At noon today, the "Marian hour" of the Angelus, one of the members in the infirmary wing of our Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy, fell sweetly asleep in the Lord:

SERUSI GIUSEPPINA – SR. M. LEONTINA
born in Fonni (Nuoro), Italy on 23 August 1929.

Sr. Leontina entered the Congregation in the community of Nuoro, Sardinia, on 22 October 1946. That community remained forever in her heart not only because it was a reminder of her roots but also because she was stationed there for several years right after her first profession. She recalled with emotion that the itinerant apostolate and catechesis to the altar boys resulted in several Pauline vocations, including Fr. Paolo Careddu and Fr. Graziano Manca.

As a postulant, Sr. Leontina had a very positive apostolic experience in Verona, during which she learned the book center apostolate, joyfully helped to prepare Gospel Days, and carried out pastoral work for vocations. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. At the end of her Juniorate, she made her perpetual profession in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, Rome. In the book centers of Venice, Genoa and La Spezia, she learned to love the Church and work with enthusiasm for the elevation of Christian culture. For a short time, she was assigned to the sector for non-Pauline editions in Rome, where she had the opportunity to deepen her knowledge of the sector's stock through the reorganization of the authors' files.

Afterward, she was stationed in the Salerno, Messina and Caltanissetta book centers successively. With the desire to carry out the Pauline mission always more effectively, she organized prayer sessions in these cities for groups belonging to the "Renewal in the Spirit" movement, which was an unforgettable experience for her. But health problems made it necessary for her to be admitted to our Albano clinic, where she remained for several months, and from there to the provincial house in Rome. In 1981, as a member of the Castro Pretorio community (Rome), she took on another apostolic challenge: that of the cinema apostolate, in particular the dissemination of "super 8" films, which were well suited for families and catechesis. She always carried vocations in her heart and on Sundays she would try to attend Mass in different churches frequented by a good number of young people.

In 1985, after a time of absence from the Congregation, Sr. Leontina was assigned to the St. Joseph community, Alba, and then to the Divine Providence community in the same FSP complex. She was very faithful to her responsibilities in the bindery, to taking her turn at guiding community liturgies with great love, and to cultivating an ever-deeper and more vital relationship with the Lord. For about 15 years, and for as long as her health permitted, she willingly helped out at the community's reception desk and switchboard.

Sr. Leontina lived her senior years serenely and quietly. When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession, she wrote: "I continually thank my God for the many special graces he has granted to me in all these years and for having called me to carry out, among the Daughters of St. Paul, such a great and beautiful apostolate, which has enabled me to dedicate my whole life to his glory and the proclamation of the Gospel. I thank my superiors, who encouraged me and gave me their trust. I praise the Lord for everything that has happened to me, both pleasant and unpleasant. I have always loved wholeheartedly the many people I have encountered on my daily journey and for them I pray and will always pray."

As the Feast of the Assumption approaches, let us entrust this dear sister to the maternal tenderness of Mary, whom we are sure has led her to contemplate the merciful Face of the Father, whom she loved and desired throughout her life. Affectionately,

Rome, 12 August 2020

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan