

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

At 8:45 a.m. today, the liturgical Memorial of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, God the Father once again visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy, to call to eternal rest our sister:

MELIS EULALIA – SR. MARIA DOLORES
born in Sardara (Cagliari), Italy on 1 May 1927.

Sr. M. Dolores entered the Congregation in Cagliari on 15 April 1941 at the age of 14. She spent the war years in that community, collaborating especially in the mission to families. In 1945 she arrived in Rome to make her novitiate, which ended with her first profession on 19 March 1946. Afterward, she returned to Cagliari, where she continued the work of itinerant diffusion and helped to organize many Gospel Days. In fact, her entire existence was marked by the Word, on which she steadfastly nourished herself and disseminated intensively. The Lord had endowed her with a deep spiritual sensitivity, which she cultivated assiduously, allowing herself to be shaped by her different life experiences and wholehearted immersion in the wealth of the Pauline spirituality.

In April 1951, immediately after her perpetual profession, Sr. M. Dolores was sent as a missionary to Portugal, where the FSPs had opened a community just a few months earlier. In that little house in Porto, she had the chance to meet the Founder, who endured a six-hour truck drive in order to bring his blessing to those courageous sisters and assure them that in the midst of their many difficulties they would be sustained by the Gospel, Our Lady and the Eucharist. This conviction accompanied Sr. M. Dolores all her life.

In Porto, she dedicated herself for about 20 years to spreading the Word of God, first through the itinerant mission and Gospel Weeks and then, from 1955 onward, through the book center apostolate. From that “pulpit,” she carried out a service of animation and spiritual orientation directed in particular to priests by offering them the books most relevant to their human and spiritual journey. In order to carry out this apostolate in a well-qualified way, she made the effort to teach herself French so as to be able to order the most appropriate books for priests and seminarians. In 1971, she was transferred to London, where she continued the book center mission and served as formator for the circumscription’s small group of postulants. Having heard from the Founder’s lips the importance of learning from everyone and everything, she let herself be formed by the apostolate she was carrying out. In her relations with the young women entrusted to her care, she was an exigent but also a loving and sincere guide, who helped them grow in the spirit of poverty and in their sense of belonging to the Congregation, fostering a strong family spirit in the community.

In 1975, Sr. M. Dolores returned to Italy, where she was first assigned to the Generalate community and then to other communities in Rome dependent on the General Government: that of Via dei Lucchesi (4th floor) and Borgo Angelico. While stationed in these communities, she carried out for almost 15 years a valuable service in the Secretariat of the Italian Ecclesial Center for Latin America, where she helped missionaries prepare the paperwork they needed to obtain visas and facilitate their travels abroad.

In 1990, Sr. M. Dolores was appointed superior of the Borgo Angelico community and later that of Via del Mascherino. When her term of office ended, she continued to lovingly help out in the St. Paul Multimedia Center’s Portuguese sector. Afterward, she was transferred to our Albano community, where she devoted herself to welcoming the sick and visitors to Queen of Apostles Hospital, at the same time enriching the community with the faith and wisdom that flowed from her intimate relationship with Jesus Master. On the occasion of her 60th anniversary of religious profession, she wrote: “Everything is a grace; everything is the work of God’s love. I rejoice at the merciful presence of the Lord, which has left an indelible mark on my life. It has been like a second baptism and I praise him for this gift.”

About 10 years ago, Sr. M. Dolores was moved to the San Raffaele (infirmary wing) of the Albano community because of her deteriorating physical condition. Her great yearning, clearly manifested even in the last days of her life, was to do the will of God. Up to the end, she continued to gently and serenely voice the conviction that had characterized her life: “Whatever the Lord wants.”

May Sr. M. Dolores intercede for our sisters in Portugal, whom she always carried in her heart, and obtain for the whole Pauline Family the grace of fulfilling the Founder’s prophetic words: “Those who nourish themselves on the Bible will be permeated by the Holy Spirit.” Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 19 October 2020