

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

At about 9:00 a.m. today, the Divine Master once more passed among us, this time visiting our Thecla Merlo community of Albano, Italy, where he called to himself our sister:

CORREDDU RAFFAELLA – SR. MARIA MARINA
born in Alghero (Sassari), Italy on 16 February 1939.

This too is a sister who lived her vocation intensively, always placing the needs of the Pauline mission and the people she was called to accompany in her service as superior ahead of her own needs. A modest, quiet and upright person, she embraced the cross of suffering and illness in progressive self-surrender to the Father.

She entered the Congregation in the house of Rome on 8 Sept. 1956, Feast of the Birth of Mary. After a time of apostolic experience in the St. Paul Film Agency of Rome, and of carrying out the itinerant apostolate in Ravenna, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1961.

Sr. Marina spent her Juniorate in Mestre, where she worked in the book center and learned to treasure its possibilities for proclaiming the Gospel and promoting culture. After her perpetual profession in 1966, she continued to carry out this apostolate, taking advantage of every occasion to perfect her skills in the Pauline mission. The dioceses of Taranto and Palermo remained in her heart in a special way and were important stages in her apostolic curriculum. In 1978, she began her long tenure as superior, first in Savona and, after a brief interval in Cremona, as superior of our Bari community, followed by that of Pavia. This was followed by another interlude in Cagliari, Livorno and Trent, after which she served two consecutive terms as superior in La Spezia. In Arezzo, she once again made a deeply-appreciated contribution to the book center and was also highly esteemed as local superior for the seriousness with which she carried out her responsibilities and her sincere affection for every sister.

In the midst of all her apostolic activities, Sr. Marina did not neglect her spiritual journey. She loved the Pauline spirituality and sought to deepen, assimilate and live it. The words spoken by Fr. Alberione to her novitiate group had penetrated her heart: “Bless the Lord who created you for the apostolate,” he said, “and bless him also for the excellence of your Congregation, in which two lives are united: the supernatural life, that is, the mystical, contemplative life because of its abundance of prayer, especially the Hour of Adoration, and then the life of the apostolate, because all your remaining strength is to be used for souls. Bless the Lord for these great gifts he has given you.”

In her intense Pauline life, Sr. Marina experienced the depths of the mystical life and the beauty of complete self-donation. She was a true teacher thanks to her ongoing commitment to learning from everyone and everything in order to offer valid content that would foster the formation and growth of people from every walk of life.

In 2013 she was assigned to the diffusion center in Verona and, two years later, to Naples. But during this period her heart was burdened by a major health preoccupation. She was already suffering from a serious tumor of the thigh which, through the years, had become quiescent. But now another cancerous mass had formed, this time in her abdomen. The steady growth of this tumor made it necessary for her to leave Naples about two years ago for the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, in order to receive the most appropriate treatment for her condition. She lived the last years of her life alternating between hope and worry. Fully aware of the gravity of her situation, she bore it with dignity and faith, without complaint or any special desires. Instead, she spent a great deal of time in prayer, preparing herself for her meeting with her Spouse.

We are sure that this apostolate of intense suffering, united to that of Jesus on the cross, enriched Sr. Marina’s mission in life with great fruitfulness. And today the Divine Master arrived quietly at her bedside to gently call her to himself. In fact, the sisters clustered around her in her final moments barely noticed her last breath. She passed to eternity sweetly and serenely, in keeping with the tenor of her entire existence.

Through Sr. Marina’s life, perhaps the Divine Master wants to tell us that even apparent sterility due to the renunciation of apostolic activity can be transformed into grace and blessing for many other people. In this light, his continual solicitations to our sister can be viewed as opportunities for more intense personal development, more fervent love, and a future brimming over with hope.

Affectionately,

Rome, 19 December 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan