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

At noon on this beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Virgin Mary visited Michele and Pietro Ferrero Hospital, located in Verduno (Cuneo), Italy to accompany to heaven an FSP who today celebrated her 90th birthday:

TORNERI GINA MARIA – SR. MARIA CANDIDA
born in Centro di San Mauro di Saline (Verona), Italy on 8 December 1930.

Sr. Candida entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 1 April 1952. After a time of initial formation and itinerant apostolic experience, she made her novitiate, which ended with her first profession on 19 March 1955, a year which the Founder asked the Pauline Family to spend "getting to know, imitate and pray to the Divine Master;" a year in which he reminded the FSPs with great enthusiasm of their call "to take the Word of God to the world, just like St. Paul," saying that this was "a virginal mission…a work of charity…a fatiguing apostolate that has no boundaries because its boundaries are those of the whole world."

From the outset, Sr. Candida assimilated and sought to put into practice these orientations of Blessed James Alberione. Stationed in Aquila as a Junior professed, she disseminated the Word of God tirelessly and with great love, especially through Gospel Days, Bible and Catechetical Weeks, and Marian Days. She returned to Rome to prepare for her perpetual profession, which she made on 19 March 1961. Afterward, she continued the ministry of the Word in Livorno and then in Udine, where she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency. In 1968, she was transferred to the Castro Pretorio community, Rome, where she worked in the book center until, in 1975, she was sent to Alba–the community in which she remained for the rest of her life.

Sr. Candida spent the major part of her 45 years at the Motherhouse working in the bindery, where she helped to beautifully "clothe" the Word of God. But her readiness to lend a hand wherever needed prompted her superiors to entrust her with many other services. In fact, over the years she carried out the duties of sacristan, seamstress, doorkeeper and even community hairdresser.

For the past several years, Sr. Candida had been undergoing medical treatment for a serious form of kidney failure that obliged her to undergo dialysis. Her doctors admired her complete docility to their dispositions, saying that she was a patient who placed herself in their hands with great trust, always prompt to accept even the most painful and sometimes repugnant treatments.
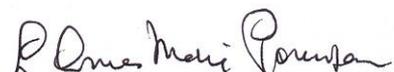
The name "Candida" that she had received at profession and which she chose to retain even after the sisters were left free to return to their baptismal names, expressed her *candid* personality: she was a sincere, kind and straightforward person, always ready to make personal renunciations in order to do good to others. She lived among us "with innocent hands and a pure heart," quietly carrying out with great fidelity her daily responsibilities, ready to accept whatever the Lord disposed for her, never uttering words of rebellion or intolerance.

At the end of November 2020, she was one of the first members of our Alba community to come down with Covid-19. The virus struck her hard, since her physical condition was particularly fragile, and it worsened her already serious condition. After about a week of hospitalization, she was called, in the solitude of the Verduno hospital's intensive care sector, to contemplate forever the face of the Father and *sing a new song* for the marvels the Lord had accomplished through her humility and simplicity of heart.

We are close to the sisters of our Motherhouse community in these days of suffering and anxiety. May the Virgin Mary keep watch over them, protect them and beg the Holy Spirit to descend upon them in all his fullness.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 8 December 2020
Feast of the Immaculate Conception