

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

In the "Queen of Apostles" community of Boston, at 5:45 a.m. (local time), one of our sisters, pronounced her "Here I am" forever:

**KOLAR CATHERINE sr MARY PAULA**  
**born in Youngstown, Ohio, U.S.A., on March 26, 1927**

Of Croatian origin, Sr. M. Paula gifted the province of the United States-English-speaking Canada with the richness of her multifaceted personality, devoting herself simultaneously to music, poetry, sports and the most demanding studies and at the same time having a heart as simple as that of a child. She herself recounted her vocational story: "In the summer of 1947 I met the Daughters of St. Paul for the first time in the book center they ran in my hometown. The first sister I met was Sr. Sabina Meneghelli who asked me if I had ever thought of becoming a nun. Her question took me by surprise. I thought she was reading my mind! The following week I met Sr. Mary Celeste Carini. I was immediately struck by her kindness, her smile and her gentle bearing. Later on, I became a regular visitor to the book center and my frequent contact with Sr. Mary Celeste made me appreciate more and more her kindness and sincere interest. She spoke to me about the mission of the Daughters of St. Paul with a joy and enthusiasm that moved me deeply."

She entered the Congregation in the house of Staten Island, USA, on March 9, 1948. She lived in Derby, NY during her novitiate, which she completed with her first profession on July 1, 1951. During her juniorate, while in the community of Derby, she obtained a bachelor's degree in pedagogy, and after her perpetual profession, which she made in Boston in 1956, she was entrusted with the formation of candidates while continuing her studies for a master's degree in education. She then dedicated herself to diffusion in the communities of San Francisco and Philadelphia, where she also served as local superior. She was appointed again as superior in Cincinnati and later was placed in charge of diffusion in Anchorage, Alaska. In 1981 she returned to Boston, where she worked for ten consecutive years in various capacities: as teacher, book and magazine editor, local councilor, driver. In the nineties, she returned to the communities of San Francisco, Philadelphia, Honolulu and Boston devoting herself especially to the book center apostolate and to helping organize the DVD library of the Pauline Center for Media Studies.

She also had the opportunity to spend time in Rome, at the Generalate, in the Secretariat for Communication. With enthusiasm and pride, she was able to visit her family's native roots in nearby Croatia. She had a universal heart and regardless of age, she offered herself to the Superior General to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

In 1998, upon her return to Boston, she dedicated herself to translating into Italian, welcoming guests, and carrying out community services. She loved the young women discerning with our community so much, she would gladly offer to welcome them at the airport on the occasion of their visits for vocational retreats or times of discernment. As long as her physical strength allowed it, she was very faithful in helping to clean up in the kitchen on a daily basis.

Sr M. Paula was above all a contemplative soul, skilled in describing, through short poems, the wonders that surrounded her and capable of surprising the community with songs prepared to solemnize feasts or particular events. Alone in the chapel, she would often be heard singing, expressing with her favorite hymns her love for the Mother of Heaven.

Since 2016, due to her physical decline, she had been part of the "Queen of Apostles" community in Boston. She lived serenely, with wit and humor, also this last period, always expressing great gratitude to those who, with kindness and patience, took care of her. The Lord's visit was by now awaited: for some weeks she had continuously accompanied by her sisters, who lovingly delivered her into the Father's arms so that the small seed of her life could germinate in eternity, for the benefit of many.

Affectionately,

Roma, January 29, 2021.

  
sr Anna Maria Parenzan