

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

Last night at 11:30 p.m. (local time), just as the Feast of the Queen of Apostles was ending and the Solemnity of Pentecost was beginning, in the infirmary of the “Queen of Apostles” community in Boston, one of our sisters went peacefully home to the Father:

**CONIGLIO FRANCESCA sr MARY TIMOTHY
born in Corleone (Palermo) Italy on 18 October 1931**

Everything about her life spoke of tranquility, of serene and kind self-giving. Her life, given in love, was consumed as gently as the flame of a candle that brightly diffuses light and grace all around.

She belonged to a beautiful and numerous Sicilian family, with eight children, who in the post-war years moved to the United States, the birthplace of both parents. But the change of culture did not prevent her from continuing her vocational discernment: she entered the Congregation in the house of Staten Island (NY, USA) on April 25, 1949, paving the way for her younger sister, Sr. Mary Agnes, who, two years later, would also embrace the Pauline vocation.

In 1952, she arrived in Rome for her novitiate, which she completed with her first profession on 19 March 1953. When she returned to the United States, she dedicated herself with fervor and a spirit of sacrifice to outreach in offices, homes and institutions in Alexandria, LA, and New York. In 1957, she was called to Boston to provide generous, attentive, and truly maternal service as cook for the large community. However, during the fifteen years she spent in the seclusion of the kitchen, her Pauline heart spanned the world. With a profound apostolic spirit, she continued to offer up everything and pray so that the Gospel might reach everywhere.

She then served two consecutive terms as superior in New Orleans, a community that was still experiencing the difficulties of its beginnings. In 1979, she returned to Boston to devote herself to various services, particularly the kitchen and laundry. Because of her wisdom and love for each sister, she was elected local councilor. Then she was again appointed superior in Philadelphia and, in 1988, she was called to literally “take flight” to the distant Hawaiian Islands. In Honolulu, for seventeen non-consecutive years, she worked with passionate dedication in the book and media center, in outreach, and in the preparation of book exhibits. Her testimony of life was a real attraction for young people in vocational discernment. She loved the Hawaiian Islands especially because they were a melting pot of backgrounds and races. Her universal heart rejoiced in that diversity and expressed itself in respect and acceptance of every culture.

From 2008 she lived in Boston, engaged in services compatible with her health. Above all, she joyfully helped to make rosaries and prayed constantly that through those rosaries, people might love the Blessed Mother and meet the Lord. She herself nurtured a deep Marian devotion and jealously preserved an image given her by Maestra Thecla on which she had written: “Love the Blessed Mother, and you will become a great saint.” She was certain that the Queen of Apostles would soon open the gate of heaven to her.

A few days ago, together with the thanks that always sprang from her lips, Sr. Mary Timothy confided to the sisters her profound desire for fidelity and left them a kind of spiritual testament: “God loves us very much, and his love will never fail. I pray for you; you pray for me. Thank you and may God bless you always.”

May the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, draw this dear sister to the contemplation of all truth and infuse in her the breath of eternal life.

Affectionately,

*Rome, May 2021
sr Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, 23 May 2021
Solemnity of Pentecost