

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

At around 5 a.m. (local time) on this Saturday of Advent, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Queen of Apostles community in Boston, U.S.A. to call to contemplate his face forever, our sister:

ODDI HELEN-SR. MARY LOUISE
born in Elizabeth, NJ (United States), on 25 April 1931.

Sr. M. Louise was born in the United States but remembered with love her Sardinian family roots, thanks to which she spoke Italian well. She entered the Congregation in the house of Staten Island, U.S.A., on 15 August 1948. She lived in that community for a few months, and after graduating from high school she dedicated herself to the diffusion apostolate in Youngstown, Ohio—the first branch house of the Daughters of St. Paul in the United States. She often recalled, with pride and gratitude, that as a postulant she had been allowed to participate in the spiritual exercises that Primo Maestro preached for the professed sisters when he visited Boston, precisely because she understood Italian. Her knowledge of the Congregation's "mother tongue" enabled her to teach English to the FSP missionaries from Italy who were little by little being sent to the United States. She had a deep devotion to the Founder and Maestra Thecla, from whom she had the joy of receiving the religious habit.

Sr. M. Louise made her novitiate in Derby, New York, concluding it with her first profession on 1 July 1951. Even as a Junior, she manifested the ardent apostolic zeal that burned within her. The sisters remember her as a wonderful propagandist, who was eager to bring the Word of God to everyone. Her joyful and expressive face helped her to establish cordial relations with all those she met through the Pauline mission.

Sr. M. Louise carried out the ministry of the Word in the communities of Staten Island, San Antonio, Miami, Youngstown and Bridgeport. In 1970, she returned to San Antonio to serve as local superior and then continued her apostolic mission in San Diego, Cincinnati, Cleveland, San Francisco and Charleston. Her deep devotion to the Blessed Mother led her to introduce many Protestants to the rosary, presenting it to them as a *biblical prayer*. There was even a Protestant community in Cleveland that, with her encouragement, placed a statue of Our Lady in its church.

In 1993, Sr. M. Louise was assigned to Boston to work in the shipping department. Two years later, she had the chance to participate in a period of updating in the Via dei Lucchesi community in Rome. Following this memorable experience, she returned to Boston, where she carried out various community services and worked in the marketing department. In 2008, she joyfully participated in a month-long course of spiritual exercises based on Fr. Alberione's spiritual-apostolic proposal, *Donec Formetur*.

She was sincerely grateful for this time of spiritual renewal, saying it would help her to live more intensively the gifts she had received. Sr. M. Louise was profoundly devoted to the Eucharist and, especially in the last years of her life, when she was in the infirmary of the Queen of Apostles community in Boston, she made continual visits to the Divine Master dwelling in the tabernacle, never forgetting to say a last "goodnight" to Jesus at the end of each day.

Her entire existence had become intercessory prayer for the needs of all people. The various prayer intentions that were entrusted to her were sacred to her. In keeping with the Founder's recommendation, she placed herself in the hands of the Father, together with Jesus Master, knowing that it was an offering pleasing to him and convinced that this was her mission in life.

On 28 November 2021, Sr M. Louise suffered a brain stroke. After several days in the intensive care unit of the local hospital, she returned to her community to serenely await the coming of her Bridegroom. As we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday," let us entrust this dear sister to our Savior, the Source of our life and joy, asking him to reconfirm her in his love and keep her safe in his mercy.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan".

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 11 December 2021