

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 12:15 p.m. today (local time), our merciful Father visited the infirmary of our Queen of Apostles community in Boston, U.S.A., to call to himself our sister:

**LANOVARA JENNIE – SR. MARY MARGARET
born in Rochester, New York (U.S.A.), on 14 August 1934.**

Sr. M. Margaret belonged to a large, hard-working Italian family that owned a big bakery in Rochester. She had already earned her high school diploma and a certificate as a business secretary when, on 8 September 1956, she entered the Congregation in the community of Boston, to which the circumscription's Derby community had just been transferred. Given her preparation and formation, Jennie was soon admitted to the novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1958.

Trained to relate to all categories of people, Jennie (now Sr. M. Margaret) was assigned to the diffusion apostolate. From the time of her temporary profession, she worked in the big, beautiful book centers that our sisters were gradually opening around the United States. Boston, San Diego, San Antonio, Miami, Buffalo, New Orleans and Honolulu were the cities that at different times came to know her as an indefatigable member of the book center staff, capable of forging lasting relationships with all those she encountered through the Pauline mission. The problems and worries of the people she met helped her to broaden her heart and present to the Lord the many intentions entrusted to her prayers. She was eager to sow joy and hope around her, and above all to communicate to everyone the goodness and tenderness of God, our provident Father.

For a period of time, Sr. M. Margaret worked at the reception desk (phone and door duties) in Boston and also carried out secretarial services in the publishing house. Afterward, she was asked to help fill the orders sent in to the order entry department. She loved to think that behind every order were specific faces waiting for the Word of God. She also threw herself wholeheartedly into pastoral work for vocations. Sr. M. Margaret took her commitment to praying for vocations very seriously, kept up to date on the various initiatives underway in this sphere, and was always delighted to meet the young women who came to visit the Boston community because she wanted to tell as many people as possible about the beauty of the Pauline vocation. In fact, just a few days before she died, she was deeply moved to hear that a girl from her hometown would be participating in the vocation retreat organized for Holy Week.

Everyone enjoyed Sr. M. Margaret's company: she liked music and dancing (especially the polka) and had a wonderful sense of humor. She loved community celebrations and willingly lent a hand in preparing for them. For a number of years, she had been experiencing problems with her health, in particular heart issues, which often required her to be hospitalized. About a month ago, during a prolonged stay in the hospital, she was diagnosed as suffering from cancer, which had spread throughout her body. She realized that her call to heaven was fast approaching and welcomed that moment courageously and serenely, in a spirit of gratitude, repeatedly expressing her total readiness to do the will of God. On 20 March, she returned home from the hospital because she said she wanted to spend her last days on earth with her community, where she received competent hospice care.

Up to the very end, Sr. M. Margaret expressed her joy in the gift of life and heartfelt gratitude for all the care she was receiving. With profound awareness, she surrendered herself into the hands of God the Father, surrounded by the affection and prayers of the sisters of the whole Province, as well of that of her relatives, especially her many nephews and nieces, some of whom had traveled to Boston to be with her at this decisive moment.

We want to thank Sr. M. Margaret for her fruitful her life and we recommend to her intercession all the young people in the process of vocational discernment, asking that they, like her, be granted the grace to encounter the luminous eyes of Jesus Master and allow themselves to be captivated by him.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 6 April 2022