

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

At about 10:00 a.m. today, our merciful and faithful Father visited Castelli Hospital, Ariccia (Rome), Italy, to call to himself our sister:

SORU PAOLINA – SR. MARIA PAOLA
born in Tramatzia (Oristano), Italy, on 19 March 1945.

Sr. Paola was a sister who truly consumed herself day after day in services overflowing with affection and boundless self-donation to everyone around her. Small, slender and fragile of physique, she suffered for years from recurrences of a heart valve disease for which she had undergone two surgeries, but in spite of this she continued to spread her care and concern for others wherever she went. Her big heart made her capable of acts of great generosity and tenderness; in fact, she was able to bond very closely with the sisters who were suffering most profoundly by taking on her own shoulders their burden of worries and loneliness. A tenacious person, ever-ready for self-sacrifice, she was deeply convinced and enthusiastic about the Pauline vocation that had indelibly marked her life since her youth. She was proud of her family, from which she had learned industriousness, a solid faith and deep human values. Making her own the sentiments of the Apostle Paul, she confided: “God has always filled me with his grace, despite my inconsistencies, weaknesses, poverty and poor health....”

Sr. Paola entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 7 September 1962, at the age of seventeen. After a time of initial formation enriched by a period of apostolic experience in Verona, she made her novitiate in Alba, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1966, along with a large group of co-novices to whom she always remained very attached.

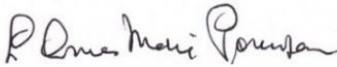
During her Juniorate, she had the chance to experience the joys of the diffusion apostolate in the communities of Alba and Sassari, and then to complete her academic studies in Alba. After her perpetual profession, made in Rome on 29 June 1972, she spent a few years in our Lodi and Brescia book centers, at the same time working with great perseverance to obtain her Master’s Degree.

In 1980, Sr. Paola was appointed superior of the community of Bari, and after a period of updating in Alba she was entrusted with the service of novitiate mistress in the Via Bosio community, Rome. Although she accompanied only one group of novices to profession, she had the joy of participating in the 9-month-long International Course for Novice Mistresses, held at Torvaianica. Afterward, she did not continue her service as formator but the experience had opened her heart to the universal dimension of the Pauline life and a deeper grasp of our charism, which enabled her to devote herself for many years to the responsibility of governing at various levels: as superior of the communities of Massa, Cicogna, the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, Udine, and the Divine Master community of Rome. She also served for four terms as provincial delegate, provincial vicar and provincial councilor for health assistance.

Care and concern for the sick characterized Sr. Paola’s entire life. The *culture of care*, which Pope Francis has strongly urged every member of the human family to put into practice, was lived by Sr. Paola on a daily basis with complete commitment and a great sense of responsibility. In the last five years of her life, she poured out her solicitude on the sisters of the Italian Province who were living in the Divine Providence community, Rome, in preparation for admission to various hospitals in the zone, or who were in need of periods of convalescence. Although Sr. Paola herself suffered from eye problems in addition to her serious heart issues, she kept “racing ahead” with her activities, concerned to meet the needs of everyone to the point of ignoring her own needs.

Last December, she was transferred to our James Alberione community, Albano, where she continued to assist the province’s neediest sisters. Yesterday, she joyfully participated in the celebration of Sr. Berenice Dell’Aquila’s 102nd birthday, but last night she sensed that the gates of heaven were about to open for her. In fact, later that same night, Sr. M. Paola was called to experience the beauty of belonging to the family of Jesus where she now lives forever in intimacy with him as his bride, sister and mother.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 19 July 2022