

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

At 9:00 a.m. today, the Divine Master visited our Divine Providence community, Rome, Italy to lead into the joy of his kingdom, our sister:

**PAGANINI FRANCESCA – SR. MARIA FRANCA
born in Montichiari (Brescia), Italy, on 29 September 1928.**

Sr. Franca was truly an upright Pauline, with a decisive, serious, dignified and dependable character. She was a Pauline in whom one could trust without reserve because of her sense of responsibility and belonging to the Institute, her love for the charism and her fidelity to the Founder and M. Thecla.

She was one of about 30 young women who, after World War II, often visited our Brescia community and discovered, precisely in the Pauline vocation, their path to God. She entered the Congregation in the house of Alba on 23 October 1946. On 19 March 1950, she concluded her novitiate with her first profession in Rome. She spent her time of temporary vows in the communities of Pavia and Palermo, engaged in the itinerant apostolate and book center work. After her perpetual profession in 1955, she was sent to Perugia to open a community there, and three years later she was appointed its superior. M. Thecla wrote to her with great satisfaction, “It does me good to think of Perugia, because I know that all of you love one another and work together in great harmony. I love you all.”

After spending a few years in the Benevento and Naples book centers, in 1965 Sr. Franca was again asked to carry out the service of superior, first in the community of Reggio Calabria and later in that of Aquila. Her love of poverty and her lifestyle based on essentials were well known and appreciated by all the sisters, as well as her respect for them and her desire that each one might fully correspond to her vocation.

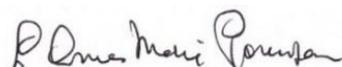
In 1970, Sr. Franca was made a councilor of the Italian province of Rome, and soon afterward, following a redesigning of the boundaries of our four Italian provinces, she was appointed councilor of its northeastern province based in Verona. This appointment was confirmed for another three years when its provincial headquarters was transferred to Bologna. After an interval in the administration offices in Verona, she was appointed local superior of the Bologna community.

In 1982, after our Italian provinces were unified into a single circumscription, Sr. Franca once more became a provincial councilor. At the end of her mandate, she was appointed local superior of the Generalate community. There, she had the joy of participating more closely in the various initiatives planned by the General Government and at the same time she opened the doors of her heart to the many FSPs from every corner of the earth who spent time in that community. At the end of her term of office, Sr. Franca accepted a transfer to the provincial administration offices located in Via Antonino Pio, Rome. With great commitment and precision, she devoted herself to the duties of the bookkeeping department of the Italian Province for over twenty-five years. This change of duties did not make any particular impact on her style of life because she was spurred on by the sole, burning desire to carry out the will of God as perfectly as possible. What she had written to her provincial superior in 1969 remained her absolute priority to the end of her life: “As always,” she said, “I ask God to make me ready to do his will at all times and to accomplish his complete plan of love for my life by whatever means he chooses. That’s what matters, isn’t it? This plan will reach its fulfillment in eternity.”

Sr. Franca surrendered herself to God’s will even when, about six years ago, she had to be placed in the community’s infirmary wing so as to receive appropriate care due to the onset of Alzheimer’s disease, in addition to various heart ailments. She continued to pray assiduously, and especially in recent times her dialogue with the Lord was uninterrupted. Like a faithful bride, she addressed him through continuous, simple declarations of love.

The Queen of the Apostles, who from the adjoining Sanctuary was so close to her heart, certainly prepared our sister for the supreme step of her life—a moment which arrived when she contracted the covid virus, allowing her to voice the “Amen” that opened the gates to the kingdom of heaven to her.

Affectionately,


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 8 August 2022