

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

At about 7:00 p.m. yesterday, an FSP who worked in our Three Fountains book center, Rome, Italy, suffered a heart seizure while returning home. She was rushed to Sant'Eugenio Hospital but, while still on the way there, she passed from this world to the arms of God the Father:

**FARAGLIA LORETA – SR. MARIA IRENE**  
**born in Lisciano (Rieti), Italy, on 10 December 1934.**

The Pauline life of this dynamic sister can be encapsulated in her letter to the Superior General in 1957, requesting permission to renew her vows. She wrote: "I am very happy to be a Daughter of St. Paul and I thank the Divine Master with all my heart for having given me a vocation to the religious life, particularly the Pauline religious life. I am very content to make this request and I promise you that, with the grace of God, I hope to live my consecration more and more fully every day." And indeed Sr. M. Irene was truly a sister who lived the Pauline mission with generosity and zeal, ceaselessly offering her whole existence to God.

On 1 Sept. 1948, she entered the Congregation in the house of Rome, following the example of her aunt, Sr. Jolanda. After her initial formation, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first vows on 19 March 1954. As a young professed she was assigned to the community of Messina, where she devoted herself to spreading the Gospel in parishes, schools and institutes. After her perpetual profession on 19 March 1959, she continued the diffusion apostolate in the dioceses of Reggio Emilia, Messina, Mestre and Catanzaro. A very sociable and open person, Sr. M. Irene wanted to make contact with every category of people so as to be "all things to all people" in bringing the Word of God to everyone.

In 1969, in response to a circular letter from the provincial superior asking the sisters if they had any particular desires with regard to the apostolate, she wrote: "In order to be serene, I have to remember that I said: *I offer, give and consecrate myself*...and because of this my reply to your question is: I want to do whatever you choose for me." She willingly accepted the proposal to devote time to deepening her cultural formation while at the same time learning and working in the fascinating film apostolate. The St. Paul Film Agency in Naples Capodimonte and later the Agencies in Reggio Calabria, Cosenza and Palermo were the "pulpits" from which she carried out her mission enthusiastically, deeply convinced that, through images, evangelization could find new modes of expression and new effectiveness.

From 1988-2002, Sr. M. Irene worked in our Verona, Ancona, Turin and Brescia book centers, primarily in the area of audiovisuals. She was also a beloved superior in our Terni, Cosenza and Lecce communities. Her big heart lovingly embraced every sister, especially those in greatest need of care.

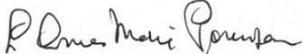
From 2011 up until just a short time ago, she worked in our FSP book center located in the Three Fountains compound, Acque Salvie (Rome). Her friendliness was truly proverbial: she established warm relations with everyone and downplayed difficult situations by means of humor. With marked humanity, she was particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor. Whenever she had access to suitable material, she would gladly donate what she collected to priests engaged in prison ministry, to poor parishes and to the nuns of various monasteries.

In the last period of her life, advancing age prompted Sr. M. Irene to relinquish her book center duties, but she continued to help out in the bookkeeping sector and was always willing to substitute on the floor when there was need. Yesterday, as she was returning to her community, she suffered an unexpected heart seizure that brought her apostolic commitment on this earth to an abrupt end.

We hope that Sr. M. Irene, who poured her life day after day into the "race" to spread the Gospel like the Apostle Paul, has now received the crown of righteousness promised to all those who love the Lord and eagerly await his return (cf. 2 Tim. 4:6-8).

Affectionately,

Rome, 8 February 2023

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan