

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

At two a.m. last night, the Virgin Mary visited our community of Alba, Italy, to accompany to heaven our sister:

**MONTI REGINA – SR. MARIA IGNAZIA**  
**born in Vertemate con Minoprio (Como), Italy, on 29 April 1939.**

Sr. M. Ignazia entered our Congregation in the community of Alba, Italy, on 28 Oct. 1963, leaving her beloved hometown and her work as a skilled weaver and thus paving the road to the Pauline life for her younger sister, Sr. Augusta, who died in Albano in 2010.

After a time of initial formation and a brief apostolic experience in Turin, Sr. M. Ignazia was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1967, the year the Founder had designated as the *Year of Faith* for the Pauline Family. As a young professed, she dedicated herself with generosity and enthusiasm to itinerant outreach in different areas of the Piedmont and Liguria regions, especially the Langhe, Roero and Chiavari zones. Two years before her perpetual profession, it was necessary for her to undergo heart surgery, which subsequently made her health very fragile.

But Sr. M. Ignazia's yearning to offer herself to God was strong. In fact, in one of her requests to renew her vows, she wrote: "I entrust my spirit of good will to the Blessed Virgin Mary, asking her to make me more docile every day to accepting whatever is asked of me by obedience and to go willingly to any house in Italy or abroad." In her letter asking to be admitted to perpetual profession, she confessed: "I know I am very weak and inconsistent, but I place all my trust in God."

After her final profession, made in the Motherhouse in 1973, Sr. M. Ignazia was assigned to the administration office of our Pauline periodicals in Rome. Later, she was sent to the new Via Mondo community in Bologna, where she devoted herself once again to the distribution apostolate, in particular that of our Pauline magazines. In 1981, she had the chance to participate in a period of theological updating in Viterbo and in the Via dei Lucchesi community in Rome. She carried out itinerant diffusion for about 10 years in Tortona, Biella and Reggio Emilia. Following this, she asked for a leave of absence from her community in order to help her sister, Sr. Augusta, in assisting the slow decline of their mother, who was completely paralyzed. In 1994, she wrote: "I try to live this difficult period in an attitude of self-surrender to God for my sins, entrusting myself to his goodness and mercy."

When she re-entered her community, she was first asked to serve as cook in the provincial house and later was transferred to Udine and then Naples, where she carried out the duties of bookkeeper, errand runner and driver. In 2001, Sr. M. Ignazia was reassigned to the Motherhouse in Alba to work in the community's large and complex kitchen. Around the year 2007, she began to manifest signs of Alzheimer's disease. At first she was placed in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, but in 2010, as her condition steadily worsened, she was moved to the Congregation's assisted-living community in Alba where, in union with Jesus Master, she experienced the long and painful ordeal of physical decline. In the last stage of her life she was bedridden and dependent on her caregivers for everything. For the last several weeks, she was not even able to swallow.

In the early hours of last night, Jesus Master knocked on her door, and she uttered, perhaps unconsciously, her last act of self-surrender to him. Taking her by the hand, Jesus, the Good Shepherd who had redeemed her with his precious blood, led her to the eternal pastures of heaven, where she has now joyfully joined the large group FSPs and other members of the Pauline Family already present there. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 26 August 2023