



Dearest Sisters,

At 6 a.m. today, our infinitely merciful Father called to himself a generous Pauline missionary who had celebrated her 100th birthday just a few months ago:

MOSSIO BEATRICE EMMA – Sr. EMMA
born in Bosia (Cuneo), Italy, on 12 November 1923.

In May 2019, after decades of apostolic service in Great Britain, Sr Emma was reassigned to our Motherhouse in Italy and it was a true homecoming for her. She returned to the house that had welcomed her as a child when she entered the Congregation at the age of eleven on 11 July 1934. It was the house in which she had learned to love the Bible and to desire that the Word of God be spread throughout the world. She loved to recall: “When I entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, I was struck during one of our classes on the apostolate by these words: ‘Through the apostolate of the press, especially diffusion of the Gospel and the Bible, we continue the preaching of Jesus and the apostles.’ With conviction and enthusiasm, I folded the signatures of various editions of the Bible in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian—a work that in those years (1934-1936) we did in our living quarters.”

In 1940, she spent a time of apostolic experience in Genoa and then was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 4 April 1942—eighty-four years ago! Sr. Emma recognized that the Pauline charism was a wonderful gift of God to the Church and after a few years in the book centers of Como, Voghera, Treviso and Venice, she opened her heart to M. Thecla, expressing her yearning to be a missionary *ad gentes*. She confided, “It is not just enthusiasm that moves me to make this request. I have considered many times that the missionary life is one of sacrifice and complete renunciation of one’s own interests in order to seek solely the will of God. I would thank the Lord wholeheartedly if he were to include me in the ranks of his missionaries. However, I want to do always and in everything only what my superiors ask of me.”

Her wish was granted and in 1955 she joined the small group of sisters in Langley, Great Britain (Sr. Rosaria Visco, Sr. Natalia Bonifacio and Sr. Pierina Enriquez) who had begun their missionary adventure in that nation a few months earlier. Sr. Emma quickly immersed herself in a completely new culture: she learned English and devoted all her energy to starting the itinerant Pauline mission there by bringing to families the books published by the Society of St. Paul, and by promoting the Pauline charism. Sr. Emma herself was thirsty for knowledge and wanted to understand the social, cultural and ecclesial context of which she was now a part. She loved literature and from the very beginning was inspired by the writings of Cardinal John Henry Newman, especially the prayer, *Lead, Kindly Light*. Inspired by this prayer, she allowed herself to be led by the hand of the Lord in the various tasks that were entrusted to her: outreach to families, animation of the first FSP book center in Knightsbridge (London), service as local superior in Birmingham, and also as a delegation counselor. She worked for about ten years in the circumscription’s administration offices in Liverpool and Langley and then returned to her beloved book center apostolate where she could express her wonderful interpersonal skills by attending to the needs of each visitor to the Center. As a true Pauline, Sr. Emma focused on essentials and sought nothing for herself. She was happy when young women studied the Pauline charism and she encouraged them to read the Founder’s writings, on which she herself assiduously reflected. Until the end of her mission in Britain, Sr. Emma was a valuable presence, an authentic witness, and a scrupulous circumscription archivist.

She also manifested her wisdom and adherence to the Lord’s will when she serenely accepted a transfer back to Italy in May 2019. She peacefully and gratefully welcomed this reassignment to her homeland, where she was inserted into the Alba community, located right next door to the Church of the Divine Master that she herself had helped to build as a young FSP candidate. Last November, surrounded by the affection of her loved ones and the Alba community, Sr. Emma celebrated her 100th birthday, entrusting herself once again without hesitation to the *Gentle Light* that today guided her to her true homeland, heaven, where she now sparkles with joy in the house of the Father. Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 9 March 2024