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Dearest Sisters,

On the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Patrons of Europe, the Lord visited our community of Alba, Italy to gently call home to heaven an ardent Pauline missionary:

ALMICI GIACOMINA LUIGIA – SR. MARIA MAGGIORINA
born in Pompiano (Brescia), Italy on 16 February 1917.

Sr. M. Maggiorina never left Italy but her heart yearned to proclaim the Gospel to all people, in particular those in Africa and China. She looked forward eagerly to the moment when the Congregation would realize its dream to open a community in China. In view of this she wrote: “I will not be able to participate in this mission personally but it will be my daily offering to Jesus in the Eucharist. For this intention I offer my entire being, with faith and love, in joy and suffering....”

Sr. Maggiorina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 24 September 1938, blazing the trail for her sister, Sr. Beatrice, who followed in her footsteps 3 years later. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1942. Afterward, she carried out the propaganda apostolate with great love in Verona and Trent. In fact, she was one of the founding members of our Trent community, which was opened in 1942, at the height of World War II, and she lived in this community for a total of 35 years. The environment was not favorable to the Pauline mission: the people, including the priests, were wary of sisters who went from house to house with bags full of books. But Sr. Maggiorina did not become discouraged. With great faith she accompanied Sr. Scholastica Flosco on visits to families in the city and in the beautiful valleys of the region, sowing the grace and light of God’s saving Word everywhere.

In 1966 Sr. Maggiorina began a new stage of her life, no longer in direct contact with the people she deeply loved but behind the scenes in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Bologna and Rome. She spent 22 years carrying out the precious but fatiguing service of double-checking the films returned each week by parishes and schools. Looking back on that time, she said: “At first, it seemed to be a very ‘cold’ apostolate compared with the 14 years I had previously spent taking the Word of God from family to family. But little by little, the other sisters working in the film agency taught me that this too was apostolate. When I came to understand that, I threw myself into this service more wholeheartedly and intensified my intentions. We put in a lot of overtime, which gave us many opportunities to offer everything to the Lord for his glory and the good of souls. Now I look back on those years with pleasure because I’m convinced I was working in the ‘field’ God had chosen for me.”

In his infinite goodness, the Lord had a beautiful surprise in store for Sr. Maggiorina: she was reassigned to her beloved Trent for another 10 years. On her 50th anniversary of religious profession she wrote: “I gave everything to the Lord for the good of souls and the Congregation. It was his love that guided me each and every day. He held my hand so that I would go forward without fear.” Sr. Maggiorina’s Gold Jubilee of profession coincided with the Golden Jubilee of foundation of the Trent community, which she celebrated as a “second jubilee.” Her simple and good heart overflowed with joy at the tenderness and attention shown her by the Lord, prompting her to write: “I am deeply moved by all the gifts I have received and I ask the Lord and the Blessed Virgin to make me always more ready to carry out their will simply, humbly and lovingly. May I see them in each and every one of my sisters.”

In 2000, Sr. Maggiorina was transferred to Alba, where she carried out various community services and continued to discover the face of God in her sisters. She dedicated herself to her duties with simplicity and love up to the time when she herself was called to surrender herself definitively into the hands of the Lord, allowing him to guide her as he pleased.

We are sure that when Sr. Maggiorina appeared before God today, she presented him with the needs of immense China, as well as those of our communities in the Congo, to which she felt particularly close thanks to the presence there of her FSP missionary niece, Sr. Rita. We know that from heaven Sr. Maggiorina will continue to keep these countries and their huge populations in her great, apostolic heart.

Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 14 February 2013