

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

At 2:35 p.m. today, the Lord visited Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to call to eternal intimacy with himself our sister,

CURTI LAURA – SR. MARIA CARLA
born in Pozzaglia Sabina (Rieti), Italy on 27 December 1919.

Sr. M. Carla entered the Congregation while still very young on 8 May 1932, the year in which our first sisters moved to their new house in Via Antonino Pio. Once there, they lived in absolute poverty (the windows did not even have any glass in them) but the house was pervaded with a spirit of intense joy because the sisters were close to the tomb of the Apostle Paul and the apostolate offered those first young Paulines many exciting prospects. Sr. M. Carla, who was 13 years old at the time, quickly learned the art of printing and book binding and then was sent to carry out the “propaganda” apostolate in Bologna.

She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1941. Immediately after this, she was sent to Reggio Calabria, where she once more dedicated herself to capillary diffusion of the Word of God. Visiting the families was not easy because the country was at war. As a result, public transportation was seriously curtailed and reserved almost exclusively to soldiers. The sisters offered the men good books and in particular a holy card inscribed with a prayer asking the Blessed Mother for protection. At one point during those years, Primo Maestro wrote to the sisters: “May your refuge be Mary, Queen of Apostles. Do not commit sin and do not be afraid.” And the sisters felt the Blessed Mother’s protection tangibly.

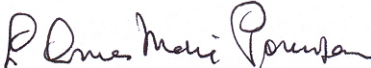
As a Junior and also as a young perpetual professed, Sr. Carla carried out the diffusion apostolate in Caltanissetta, Bologna and Trent. Over the years, she covered a good part of northern Italy, carrying out the Pauline mission in various forms. In Udine, Como and Trent, she worked in the book center. Afterward, she worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Brescia, Belluno, Verona and Trent. In Mestre, Pordenone, Belluno, Trieste, Trent, Bologna, Rome, Treviso and Brescia, she carried out various community services and then, when her health began to decline, she made rosaries.

In 2001, knee problems made it necessary to transfer Sr. M. Carla first to the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, and then to the James Alberione community in the same town. She accepted the physical discomforts of the aging process quietly and serenely, thanking her caregivers repeatedly for their services. In the last period of her life, her health continued to decline because of blood circulation problems. Fully aware of her deteriorating condition, she prepared for her meeting with the heavenly Father, asking the sisters to support her passage to eternal life with their prayers.

It is very significant to read here Sr. Carla’s last desires, which she committed to writing several years ago as a kind of “spiritual testament.” “When I die,” she wrote, “I ask everyone to praise and thank the Lord for all he did for me and to offer prayers of suffrage for my soul. Do everything with great simplicity. I want to thank as of now my relatives, the Congregation and all its members. I promise to pray fervently for everyone. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Today, we return this triple thanks to Sr. M. Carla for having taught us, through her witness of life, to seek the things that are essential, to make the most of everything for the apostolate, and to offer our entire existence to the Lord as a gift in a perennial “liturgy of life” for the salvation of all people.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 24 July 2012