

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 8:15 this morning, the Divine Master visited the infirmary wing of our Alba, Italy community to call to the joy of eternal life our sister:

DE STEFANI NERINA – SR. GIACINTA
born in Borsea (Rovigo), Italy on 3 June 1916.

Sr. Giacinta passed to eternity serenely, just a few months short of her 100th birthday. For the past few days she had been feeling very tired and was no longer able to eat on her own, relying on intravenous nourishment and oxygen to get from day to day. But she continued to smile and thank the sisters for every service done for her. Her “illness” was simply advanced age but her eyes remained forever young, expressing her joy in her vocation and her yearning to meet her Spouse.


Following in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. Anselma, who died in 1998, Sr. Giacinta entered the Congregation in the community of Rovigo on 30 January 1936, opening in her turn the door to the Pauline life for her two nieces, Sr. Bruna and Sr. Anna, both of whom also preceded her to eternity.

After her initial formation and a period spent carrying out the “propaganda” apostolate in Pavia, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation journey with her first profession on 3 March 1940.

Sr. Giacinta’s formal education ended when she finished elementary school in 1927 but her love for the Pauline mission and ardent assimilation of the words of the Founder enriched her with great wisdom and fired her with enthusiasm for the apostolate, enabling her to live the routine of daily life in an exceptional way. In fact, Sr. Giacinta’s *curriculum vitae* can be summed up very simply: from 1940-1965 she carried out the propaganda apostolate with great passion and conviction in the mountainous diocese of Udine, toting bags overflowing with the Word of God into high and remote Alpine valleys. Following this, from 1965-2005, she was assigned to the Brescia community, where she dedicated all her energies to management of the stockroom, located in the basement of the book center. During her time there, she was the indisputable “ruler” of that sector and she never considered her work to be a “secondary” apostolate. For her, the stockroom was the heart—what she lovingly called the “pulpit”—of her mission. With great apostolic insight, she transformed that area into the dynamic core around which not only book center but also the entire Brescia diocese revolved. From there, she enthusiastically prepared all the material needed for the book displays held in many parishes throughout the diocese, especially during the Christmas and First Communion seasons. Sr. Giacinta was always delighted to welcome young men and women, priests and other book display collaborators into her realm, giving them free access to the contents of the stockroom, making them feel welcome and inflaming them with love for the Pauline mission. In fact, Sr. Giacinta considered these individuals to be her co-workers and so, with the help of the other members of her community, she organized regular formation meetings on the Pauline spirituality for them so as to infuse them with passion for the apostolate.

The Pauline mission was the heart and soul of Sr. Giacinta’s life, the light that guided every moment of her existence, including during her late senior years when her physical strength began to decline. In 2005, she was transferred to the Alba infirmary, where she continued to fecundate through prayer and self-offering the many seeds she had sown with great generosity throughout her life. Her smile and kindly expression revealed her goodness of soul, along with the keen apostolic intuition that was a fundamental part of her personality. At this point, cloaked in beauty, she was ready to meet her Spouse and receive the reward promised to the apostles of all times.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 10 March 2016