

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 6:00 this morning, the Lord made an unexpected visit to Santa Maria Nuova Hospital in Reggio Emilia, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

PINTUS SR. MARIA ANTONIA
born in Bonorva (Sardinia), Italy on 5 February 1925.

“I praise you, Lord, for I am wonderfully made”: these words of the Responsorial Psalm for today, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, can well be placed on the lips of our dear sister. And we too can truly say wonderful things about Sr. Maria Antonia. The members of our Reggio Emilia community, in which she lived for the last 17 years, describe her as a treasure—an edifying, charitable and good Pauline who served others in a spirit of joy, serenity and peace; a woman in love with her Lord and Master, who offered every moment of her day to him and who spent long hours reflecting on the Word in keeping with the recommendation of our Founder.

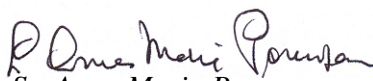
Sr. M. Antonia entered our Congregation in the community of Sassari (Sardinia) on 24 January 1948. Several months later she was sent to Rome to undergo her initial formation. As a postulant, she carried out capillary propaganda in the diocese of Potenza. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1951. On that occasion, she received the unusual name *Bachisia* in honor of St. Bachisio, a saint highly venerated in her native region. As a young professed, Sr. M. Antonia returned to the propaganda apostolate, this time in Ascoli Piceno, and after her perpetual profession she carried out the same mission for 16 year in the diocese of Nuoro. By this time, the propaganda apostolate was deeply anchored in her heart. She willingly accepted the sacrifices linked to this mission so as to reach as many people as possible, bringing them the Word of hope that had made an indelible mark on her own life.

From 1972-1983, Sr. M. Antonia moved back and forth between the communities of Sassari and Nuoro (Sardinia), carrying out the services of cook and seamstress with great love. She had written to her provincial superior in 1969: “I am happy in my community and with the work I am doing because I have always felt very comfortable with household duties. However, I am always ready to do whatever obedience asks of me.”

And in 1983 obedience asked Sr. M. Antonia to leave her beloved Sardinia, where she had spent 27 years of her Pauline life, for Milan. The Lord rewarded her generous acceptance of this transfer because this turned out to be one of the most beautiful periods of her life. In the Via Varanini community, Sr. M. Antonia lived with the province’s young women in formation and with the team of sisters who carried out capillary and collective propaganda in this huge diocese. She happily carried out her household duties with attention to even the smallest details, such as making the special desserts at which she had become an expert. In fact, this good-hearted sister was a culinary artist who accompanied the beautiful but fatiguing work of the propagandists not only with her prayers and self-offering but also by preparing excellent and nutritious meals for them.

In 1995, Sr. M. Antonia was transferred to Reggio Emilia, where she was once again assigned to community services. But her maternal attention to the needs of the sisters did not prevent her from closely following congregational and ecclesial events. Several days ago, she said she felt unwell and was in the process of undergoing a series of examinations when her condition unexpectedly worsened. She was immediately taken to the emergency room of a nearby hospital, where medical tests revealed that she was suffering from a tumor that had already spread throughout her system. Sr. M. Antonia’s life underscores in a special way the words of today’s Liturgy: “I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made. Lord, wonderful are your works.” The Lord indeed accomplished wonders in the simple and humble life of our sister—wonders of love, goodness and self-offering.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome 24 June 2012