

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,

Just after midnight last night, God the Father visited the infirmary of our Divine Providence community in Alba, Italy to call one of our sisters to dwell forever in his house of light:

**SACCHETTO FRANCESCHINA LINA – SR. M. GIOVANNINA
born in Costa (Rovigo), Italy on 17 September 1933.**

Sr. M. Giovannina had been in the infirmary wing for just under a year, after having dedicated all her energies, day after day, to the good of her community and the proclamation of the Gospel.

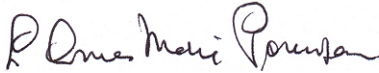
She entered the Congregation in Alba, Italy on 20 September 1955 at the age of 22. After a period of time in the Motherhouse, she was sent to Genoa to carry out the apostolate of capillary and collective diffusion. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. Afterward, she spent many years carrying out the apostolate with great fervor, first as a propagandist in Ivrea and Gorizia and then, after her perpetual profession, in the FSP book centers in different dioceses of Italy. When she made her perpetual profession in 1964, she wrote to the Superior General: “I want to tell you how happy I am with my Pauline vocation. I want to continue this beautiful vocation and live it with always greater dedication to God, to my beloved Congregation, and to souls.... At this moment, I am spurred on by the firm will to serve the Lord, in the knowledge that not only joys but also sacrifices and small sufferings await me. I want to be a true Pauline, in keeping with the desire of our dear Prima Maestra and the will of the Lord. And I am sure that with the help of his grace I will succeed.”

So as to be better prepared for the ministry of proclaiming the Word, Sr. Giovannina was given the chance to complete her intellectual formation, after which she devoted herself with great fidelity and commitment to diffusing the Gospel in the book centers of Alessandria, Tortona, Novara, Verona, Trieste, Mantua, Reggio Emilia, Udine and Treviso. She loved the people and her simplicity enabled her to enter the hearts of everyone. She had learned from the Founder that the book center is a temple, a place of evangelization and formation, the center from which all our Pauline initiatives branch out. Fr. Alberione never tired of emphasizing the sacred nature of this apostolate: “They are not simply book shops,” he declared, “but centers that irradiate the light of the truth, the light of morality and the light of the Church.” He often underscored the importance of the Pauline mission, which aims to form a different mentality in society; to give it a new imprint and a new direction. Sr. Giovannina assimilated this teaching profoundly and even in the last days of her life, when she labored to simply breathe, she yearned to return to Tortona, Trieste, Rovigo....

While in the communities of Tortona and Trieste, Sr. Giovannina also carried out the service of local superior, even though she had to resign from this office in Trieste so as to assist her brother, who was gravely ill.

She was transferred to Alba in May 2012, where she was lovingly cared for by the members of the community and by the doctors of the local hospital. Yesterday evening, when it was clear that her life was drawing to an end, she followed very attentively the singing of the hymn, “*One day I’ll go to see him in heaven, my homeland...*” She knew that this homeland was opening its gates to her, even as the voice of the Master whispered to her lovingly: “Get up and come...come home.” Now Sr. Giovannina has finally reached her destination—the homeland of joy and light, mercy and love, that awaits us all.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 17 January 2014