

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 5:00 p.m. yesterday (local time), one of the sisters of our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, suffered a heart attack and was taken to heaven by the Divine Master:

**GALLO ANTONIA M. NAZZARENA – SR. AGOSTINA**  
**born in Stignano (Reggio Calabria), Italy on 13 May 1920.**

On 5 January 2000, Sr. Agostina wrote a spiritual testament in which she said: "I think the time has come for me to 'pass to the other shore.' Therefore I want to thank the Lord for all the gifts he has poured out on me throughout my life and above all for calling me among the Daughters of St. Paul. I have a huge amount of shortcomings, flaws and weaknesses, but I trust in the love of Jesus, who chose me for himself. With all my heart, I thank you all for welcoming me among you and for everything I received from you. To my dearest superiors, sisters, relatives and friends, I leave my heart. Even though it is not in very good condition, it is all yours! I wish I could live a second time so as to dedicate myself once again to all of you. I will be praying for everyone from heaven. I ask your pardon! On my part, no one has behaved in such a way as to need any pardoning from me...."

These words sum up Sr. Agostina's life, which she offered the Lord through the Pauline mission, lived in a spirit of humility, simplicity and great joy. She entered the Congregation in the community of Catanzaro on 29 January 1938. After carrying out the "propaganda" apostolate in the diocese of Pescara for several years, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1942. Immediately afterward, she returned to the apostolate of diffusing the Gospel to the families, this time in the dioceses of La Spezia and Pavia.

In 1947, she wrote to Maestra Thecla: "I am preparing for my perpetual profession by trying to cultivate a more intense spiritual life. I have always wanted to dedicate myself definitively to the Lord and to the Congregation. I know I am full of imperfections, but I trust in the grace of God.... I promise (and hope to be!) a docile daughter who is submissive in everything. I am happy. I'm almost always out on propaganda, during which I offer my heartfelt prayers for everyone. I thank God for everything."


In 1955, Sr. Agostina returned to Rome to learn the art of double-checking the films that were returned to the St. Paul Film Agencies each week by the parishes that rented them. She joyfully carried out this service for a number of years in the Agencies of Rome, Cagliari and Salerno. Following this, she worked at different times in the administration sector in Rome, Udine and Salerno. In her senior years, she carried out various community services (especially in the sewing room) in Cosenza and Naples/Capodimonte. It was in this last community that she discovered she had a special gift for physical therapy: when she saw that her strong hands greatly eased the physical sufferings of her sisters, she willingly bore the fatigue of this work so as to bring them relief through her "magical" massages.

In 2008, Sr. Agostina's deteriorating health made it necessary to transfer her first to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, and then to the nearby James Alberione community. In 2010, she wrote: "My leg is better and I am helping the sisters with physical therapy. I am happy and very serene. I rejoice because in our community the spirit of prayer is growing. Our prayers are varied and the sisters participate in them wholeheartedly. Everyone offers their sufferings to God both individually and as a community, with great love and serenity. I am embarrassed to admit that I have never relished prayer as much or prayed as well as I do in this community. It is all a gift of God!"

Sr. Agostina's optimistic outlook on life was proverbial. Throughout the years, she always sought to help her sisters see the funny side of things, and up to the end of her life she was always delighted when they teased her back by greeting her with a spirited "cock-a-doodle-doo" in imitation of the rooster's crow (her last name, *Gallo*, means "cock" or "rooster" in Italian).

While we bid farewell to this dear sister, let us remember the conclusion of her spiritual testament, in which she writes: "I ask you all to offer a prayer of suffrage for me and I say to everyone, with great peace of heart: Goodbye for now. See you again in heaven!"

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 15 May 2017