

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

With deep emotion, I want to inform you that at 4:00 this morning, God, our good Father, visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

**DONATI MARIA – SR. M. CECILIA**  
**born in Cavaione di Bleggio (Trent), Italy, on 11 May 1941.**

Sr. M. Cecilia was one of the best known and best loved sisters of the Italian Province. Throughout her religious life, she carried out numerous services of responsibility that put her in direct contact with hundreds of FSPs. With the passing of time, she overcame her innate shyness and became one of the Province's most sought-after superiors due to her respect for and attention to others, especially the senior sisters and those in greatest need of assistance.

A member of a large family, in which she had developed a strong sense of responsibility and a great capacity for self-donation, she entered the Congregation in Alba on 27 December 1954, at the age of thirteen. At first, she was placed among the "Immacolatine" (FSP candidates who had not yet started high school) and was assigned to work in the typography. When she turned 18, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1960. After her perpetual profession, Sr. Cecilia carried out pastoral work for vocations, first in the Divine Providence community, Rome, and then in Lecce. Afterward, she was sent to Milan to complete her formal education.

In 1970, she was transferred to Naples/Capodimonte and from there to Bari to take charge of the formation of the 25 Juniors of Italy's Southern Province. While in Bari, she also carried out the office of local superior and then served for two consecutive terms as councilor of the Southern Province.


Following this, she was appointed superior of the Divine Providence community, Rome, and then superior of the Via Vivanti community, which at that time was the headquarters of the provincial government. After this she served for 8 years as superior of the formation community located in Via Bosio, Rome.

In 1996, the Lord made a new appeal to Sr. Cecilia: she was asked to accept an assignment to the Albano community, which at that time was a delegation in itself, numbering more than 100 sisters at the service of Queen of Apostles Hospital. Sr. Cecilia accepted this request with her habitual naturalness and simplicity. At first she served as a delegation councilor and also vice-superior of the delegation, and then as delegation superior for two consecutive terms of office.

But the requests for her service did not end here. At the end of her mandate at Albano, she was appointed superior of the Naples/Duomo community and finally, in 2008, she was made superior of our Motherhouse community in Alba—an office she carried out for 9 years, accompanying the sisters in both their joys and sorrows. We remember the pleasure with which Sr. Cecilia welcomed the many FSPs who visited our Motherhouse on their pilgrimages to the sites associated with the Pauline beginnings. We also remember the joy with which she helped to prepare for our FSP Centenary. Sr. Cecilia's sociability, always accompanied by great discretion, put everyone around her at ease and made them feel like our Motherhouse was the "home" of every FSP throughout the world. Last May, when she finished her third mandate as superior of the Alba community, Sr. Cecilia was appointed superior of the Divine Providence community, Rome. The sisters there were eagerly awaiting her arrival when it was discovered that she was suffering from cancer, already in metastasis. Sr. Cecilia accepted this disposition of the Lord with her usual composure and serenity. When I visited her 15 days ago, I found her seated in a chair beside her bed. Her face was pallid but she assured me with a smile that she was praying for all the needs of the Congregation and offering her sufferings for that intention.

We want to thank this dear sister for her love for the Pauline vocation and for all the sisters, and we entrust to her the Juniors who in two weeks will begin their course of preparation for final vows. May they look to Sr. Cecilia as a model of limitless self-donation to God.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 2 January 2018