

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

The Lord has knocked on our door once again. At 8:00 this morning, he visited the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, Italy to call to eternal life our sister:

**BRAGANTINI RACHELE PASQUA – SR. M. GRAZIANA**  
**born in Verona, Italy on 21 April 1935.**

When Sr. Graziana and her co-novices made their first profession, Fr. Alberione reminded them that the religious vocation can be compared to a journey. “The Congregation has supplied you well for this trip,” he said. “It has taught you and nourished you with the bread of the spirit. It is convinced that you are called to follow this route and will continue to accompany you in prayer.”

Sr. M. Graziana began this journey on 8 September 1956, when she entered the Institute in the community of Alba. In 1959 she was transferred to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1960. Afterward she was sent to Ancona to carry out capillary and collective diffusion. During the time of preparation for her perpetual profession (which took place in Rome in 1965) she served as a driver for the Rome community (a responsibility she carried out until 1968, when she was sent to Messina as a cook) because from the time of her initial formation, she had proved that she was one of the most competent drivers in the Italian province.

In 1969, Sr. Graziana told her provincial superior that she was ready to carry out any office or apostolate. She wrote: “I prefer to leave my superiors free to dispose of me as they desire. It is not a particular community or office that will make me happy. I am happiest allowing my superiors to use me as they think best. I want my promise to ‘offer, give and consecrate’ myself to be complete, without any reservations whatsoever.”

That same year, she was transferred to Mestre to serve as a driver for the community and also to work in the storeroom of the St. Paul Film Agency. Three years later, she was sent to her hometown, Verona, where she worked in the SP Film Agency and also carried out the service of cook. Following this, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency of Turin for several years.

In her mature years, Sr. Graziana continued to dedicate the best of herself to her apostolate as a cook and driver in the Divine Providence community (Via Antonino Pio, Rome). Later, she carried out the same duties in Naples/Capodimonte, Milan, Galloro, and Castro Pretorio (Rome).

The qualities she manifested during the time of her formation characterized her whole life. In fact, Sr. Graziana is remembered not only for her reserve but especially for her intense dedication to her work, which she translated into the desire to serve every sister. She never complained about her workload, even though while she was cook in the huge Via Antonino Pio community in Rome, she said she even dreamed at night about how many sisters needed to be fed the following day! Her quiet and at times gruff personality masked a very sensitive and upright nature.

And it was in silence that she prepared for her last journey—the trip to heaven. About 6 years ago she was diagnosed as suffering from cancer, already in metastasis. She was transferred to the Thecla Merlo community, where she bore her malady with great dignity, without complaint and without expressing any particular needs. Indeed, she sought to minimize her situation and fully participated in community activities up to nearly the last day of her life.

And today the Divine Master called her to himself peacefully, almost without her being aware of it. For her, the time of intimacy, of full revelation of the Father, has arrived—a time in which she now dwells with the Holy Trinity, participating in their eternal flow of love.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 15 May 2017