



Dearest Sisters,

At 9:00 p.m. yesterday, July 11, when the liturgical celebration of the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time had begun, at the Michele and Pietro Ferrero Hospital in Verduno, Cuneo, the loving Father called to himself our sister, that she might join the redeemed in singing the new song for all eternity:

CERRI ANGELA Sr. MARIA ASSUNTA
Born in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Lodi, June 21, 1934

We remember her radiant face, always ready with a smile, her simplicity, and the enthusiasm with which she lived the Pauline vocation, generously and passionately spreading the Word. We especially remember Sr. M. Assunta's beautiful singing voice and her dedication to accompanying and directing the Church's liturgical music. Generations of Pauline sisters learned from her the rhythm, the tones, and the artistry of celebrating the liturgy as an expression of God's beauty. She inspired others with her enthusiasm for divine praise, expressed through majestic choral music sung in multiple parts and accompanied by the organ in the Church of the Divine Master in Alba, the very instrument she had the privilege of inaugurating more than sixty years ago.

Sr. M. Assunta was born into a large family in Lombardy, from whom she inherited a strong work ethic, the joy of family life, and a deep religious spirit. She entered the congregation in Alba on March 25, 1952, following the example of her sister, Sr. Antonia, who died in 2000. From her earliest years at the Motherhouse, Sr. M. Assunta learned bookbinding as well as the secret of Pauline apostolic spirituality, offering the daily hardships of her work so that the Word of God, beautifully presented, might reach the hearts of countless people thirsting for the truth.

After a brief apostolic assignment in the Diocese of Brescia, she went to Rome for her novitiate, making her first profession on March 19, 1955. Sr. M. Assunta then returned to the Motherhouse, where she devoted herself to the itinerant apostolate of spreading the Gospel and Pauline periodicals. On the Solemnity of St. Joseph in 1960, after completing her years of formation, she made her perpetual profession in Rome. She then resumed her apostolate in the busy book bindery in Rome, operating the paperback binding machines while continuing organ practice and directing sacred music. The sound of the paper cutter and the melodies of the liturgy came together in her life in a remarkable harmony.

For several years Sr. M. Assunta also served at the Generalate in the Pauline Missions Center and later in the book warehouse in Milan. Beginning in 1981, she was assigned to Alba, where she remained for forty-five uninterrupted years, quietly giving herself in service and firmly believing in the power of the Word that she handled each day in the technical apostolate. That same Word also reached people through Pauline magazines, which she promoted with great zeal, renewing and making new subscriptions among the families of the Langhe and Roero regions. Every magazine was, for her, a light meant to shine wherever it was received. She was sustained by a fervent devotion to Mary and became known as "the Rosary sister." How many rosaries Sr. M. Assunta prayed, how many Hail Mary's she quietly whispered, and how beautifully she witnessed to and spread Marian devotion throughout her life.

For the past several years she had been living in the infirmary in Alba, suffering from serious illnesses, especially cancer and heart disease. The immediate cause of her final encounter with the Lord was acute kidney failure, which required emergency hospitalization. Just a few days ago, in her hospital room, Sr. M. Assunta spoke of the fire that still burned in her heart through songs of praise, singing aloud the Hail Mary and the *Holy, Holy, Holy*—a beautiful summary of the spirituality that had sustained her throughout her life. Then, in the silence of that hospital room, surrounded by the love of the sisters and the care of the medical staff, she peacefully left this world to go to the Father and to behold him no longer through a veil, but face to face in the fullness of his light.

Affectionately,

Rome, July 12, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan