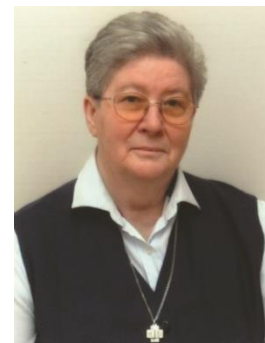


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Dearest Sisters,

At 6:30 this morning, after a long agony in the infirmary of our Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy, one of our sisters was called to “arise” and clothe herself in the Light that never fades:

VATTERONI SR. ANNA ROSA
born in Marina di Carrara (Massa), Italy on 19 July 1943.

Up until a year ago, Sr. Anna Rosa was a full participant in the life of our Alba community, to which she had been transferred in 2017 to carry out the service of nurse and also that of vice-superior. At about this same time last year, she suffered a stroke and just when it seemed that the rehabilitation process was improving her situation, it was discovered that she had also developed abdominal cancer, which led to a gradual deterioration of her condition, resulting in her death.

Sr. Anna Rosa entered the Congregation in Rome on 12 Sept. 1964. After several years of formation, during which she had the chance to finish her studies, she was assigned to Caltanissetta for a year of apostolic experience. She returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1969. As a young professed, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in the dioceses of Lugano, Turin, Sondrio, Como, Alessandria and Lodi. In 1975, while preparing for perpetual profession in Alba, she expressed her complete availability to do whatever the Lord asked of her in the years to come. The fact that she had just received a degree in nursing oriented her toward the care of our sisters in the field of health services.

She was nevertheless able to experience the joy of carrying out the book center apostolate in Chiavari and Tortona, but in 1981 she was appointed superior of the La Spezia community. Afterward, she put her nursing skills to good use in Rome and in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano. In 1989, she was appointed superior of the Galloro (Ariccia) community, home to many of our sick and elderly sisters. After another parenthesis in Rome, during which she not only carried out nursing duties but also served as group leader, she was called to fulfill the office of superior in Livorno for two terms. In 2008, following a brief stay in the Motherhouse, she was appointed Delegation Superior of Albano. When that community passed under the dependence of the General Government, Sr. Anna Rosa became its local superior. These were not easy years for her, even though they were rich in many different experiences.

A very sensitive person, she was deeply moved by suffering and had a wonderful capacity for love. Her nursing activities put her in direct contact with death and she tenderly accompanied many sisters to their definitive encounter with the Master. She also opened her heart with great love to the “Pauline world” by participating in the international meeting for redesigning our presences and also in the Interchapter Meeting.

In 2013, Sr. Anna Rosa was transferred to the Motherhouse but a few months later she was made superior of the Capodimonte community in Naples. On that occasion, she said: “I live my service with joy and availability. When I mentally picture the sisters, I discover in each one’s face a particular expression, and for each of them I offer a personalized remembrance to the Lord. I like to imagine the sisters as a bouquet of flowers: each one different from the others in color, fragrance and grace. I love the sisters very much, even if sometimes, because of my shyness, I react on impulse. But I am sure that the Lord knows my limitations and I can say that I never go to sleep before making my peace with everyone.”

When her term of office ended in 2017, Sr. Anna Rosa returned to Alba to continue her service of love. In 2019, she celebrated her 50th anniversary of religious profession. She was not able to share with her co-novices the moving memories of what the Spirit had worked in her over the years but she wrote to the Superior General: “I want to thank Jesus Master for the many gifts he has poured out upon me in the consecrated life, for the understanding of my superiors, and for their esteem and trust in me. I thank him for my many experiences in life and for all the good I have received. I ask forgiveness for all the things I did not do well, in the knowledge that he is great and merciful.... I carry in my heart the words of M. Thecla: *The Lord does not give us what we ask for but what we believe we will receive*. Lately, the Lord has asked many things of me and I offer all of them for the needs of the Congregation, so that the Gospel may be proclaimed.”

On this luminous Feast of the Epiphany, the life of this dear sister rises up to God like incense, while the treasure chest of her existence opens before him in a precious act of self-offering and adoration.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 6 January 2020