



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

At 8:45 a.m. today, the risen Lord visited our James Alberione community (Albano), Italy, to call to a new day of light and peace our sister:

BALTIERI MARIA – SR. MARIA TARCISIA
born in Velo Veronese (Verona), Italy, on 21 June 1928.

Sr. Tarcisia was a sister who gave our Congregation the richness of her heart through her profound sense of belonging to it, together with her wholehearted self-donation to services in many areas of Pauline life. Her personality was truly multifaceted: she was a wise formator, an enthusiastic apostle, a loving scholar of St. Paul, a shrewd administrator and an expert and competent bursar. A tireless worker, she was nevertheless very conscientious about taking long, invigorating walks in the mountains which, during the summer period, she did not neglect for any reason. Her gaze could at times seem severe, but it hid an innate kindness and a warm welcome for anyone who needed her help.

She entered the Congregation in Alba, Italy, on 12 September 1949, at the age of twenty-one, after having obtained a diploma in accounting while still at home. She made her novitiate in Rome and concluded it with her first profession on 19 March 1953. She then had the opportunity to attend in-house courses in philosophy and theology in the community of Rome, while at the same time working in the Center for the Apostolate directed by Sr. Assunta Bassi. This was a very important time for Sr. Tarcisia—one that gave wings to her Pauline spirit and opened her to the immense horizons of the FSP vocation. In 1961, she began her service as a formator, first for a group of ninety Junior professed sisters, then for the young perpetually professed, and following this, for four novitiate groups (1966-1971). These were the luminous and challenging years of the post-Council period and Sr. Tarcisia, by means of her input and the witness of her life, encouraged the young sisters in her care to be receptive to the wind of the Spirit that was blowing through the Church.

In 1973, she began another stage of her Pauline life—this one dedicated to the service of governing. In fact, she was appointed councilor of our Italian circumscription's province of Rome, which had its seat in Via Flaminio Ponzio. For the next three years she served as bursar of this province. In 1979, she was made bursar of the newly-unified Italian province: not an easy task since it also required forging unity among the bursars of what were formerly separate Italian provinces.

In 1985, at the conclusion of two mandates as provincial bursar, Sr. Tarcisia took some time out in our Bologna community and the following year she was assigned to the Generalate to carry out several tasks entrusted to her by the General Government. During that time, she competently organized various pilgrimages to the places of origin of the Pauline Family, and also accompanied with great fervor the Convention *I carry you in my heart* to which she made a valid contribution on the organizational level. She also oversaw the renovation of Prima Maestra Thecla's family home in Castagnito, in preparation for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Prima Maestra's death.

And precisely during this time, yet another stage opened in Sr. Tarcisia's life—a long stage that has only now come to an end. While she was overseeing, on behalf of the Bursar General, the renovation of a number of rooms that had just been purchased in a building located on Via di Borgo Angelico, she informed the Superior General that other rooms in the same building—these fronting on Via del Mascherino, had become available and could possibly be used as a book center. Thus began a new adventure for her, alongside the sisters who were chosen to manage what would become our Pauline International Multimedia Center.

Beginning in 1989, that International Center became the place in which her apostolic dreams gradually came to fruition, as well as the place of her continual self-offering. In fact, Sr. Tarcisia's daily workload was at times very heavy because, as the person in charge of the Center's administration, she had to deal with many problems related to the complexity of importing books from various linguistic areas of

the world, with monetary and legislative differences. Sr. Tarcisia confessed that the economic management of our Multimedia Center was equivalent to that of five book centers. But it was an apostolate she carried out with passion because she believed that the Center was a precious gift to the universal Church. She was proud to participate in the ecclesial life of numerous countries throughout the world due to her daily contact with bishops, priests and lay people from all the continents. With great enthusiasm, she supported all the events and initiatives programmed by the Multimedia Center, which she was convinced could offer appropriate pastoral responses to the needs of the Church or promote and improve the quality of the Center's international service.

In spite of her advanced age, Sr. Tarcisia continued to capably carry out her apostolic service on a daily basis, although in the last few years she did so with the aid of a skilled professional whom she herself had chosen and trained.

The Lord visited our sister in a totally unexpected way on 11 January 2012 by means of a sudden, severe stroke. She was immediately hospitalized at the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic, Rome, but the doctors there said that the effects of the stroke were unfortunately irreversible.

She was transferred to our James Alberione community, Albano, where she ended her earthly pilgrimage surrounded by the prayers and affection of our sisters. Like the Apostle Paul, Sr. Tarcisia "fought the good fight" by dedicating herself completely to God throughout her long life, and we are sure that it was an offering very pleasing to him. May she now be clothed with the crown of justice—the eternal crown promised to all those who love the Lord and eagerly await his return (cf. 2 Tm. 4:6-8).

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan". The script is cursive and fluid.

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 17 January 2022