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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

At about 11:45 p.m. last night, the Lord visited our Queen of Apostles Hospital, Albano, Italy to gently take by the hand and call to himself our sister:

BALLINI SR. GIOVANNA
born in Grezzana (Verona), Italy on 27 June 1933.

Sr. Giovanna had been a member of the James Alberione community, Albano for several years prior to her death and although her health was very fragile, there were no alarming signs that death was imminent. But yesterday, a severe attack of pancreatitis triggered a heart attack and led to her meeting with her Lord and Master and also with her dear sister, Sr. Maria Rosa, who died less than two years ago.

Sr. Giovanna entered the Congregation in Alba on 21 November 1950. After a time of formation and apostolic experience in the community of Alexandria, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1954. As a young professed, Sr. Giovanna returned to the propaganda apostolate in Alexandria and afterward carried out the same mission in Rimini. After her perpetual profession, she was assigned to the Castro Pretorio community of Rome, where she dedicated herself to intense diffusion of the Word of God in the city's institutes and parishes. Following this, she was transferred to the Divine Master community, Rome, where she worked in the shipping department.

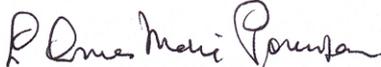
In 1965, Sr. Giovanna was sent to Sydney, Australia. The bishops there had discovered the Pauline apostolate through the documentary film *"In Cammino" (On the Way)* and were asking the FSPs to collaborate with their National Catholic Radio-TV Center. Sr. Giovanna and another Daughter of St. Paul were chosen by the Superior General to answer this need. At first they carried out secretarial duties, along with the reviewing and shipping of films and radio programs. The bishops encouraged the yearning of the courageous Daughters of St. Paul of Australia to disseminate the Gospel message through the production of their own films and radio programs and in view of this several FSPs, including Sr. Giovanna, took specialized courses in the field and received their diplomas in TV/film production. Sr. Giovanna also took a 3-month Radio-TV course in London, England, which helped to refine her professional training in this field. In 1973, the Pauline Cooperators Bulletin published an article entitled, *Sr. Giovanna* [at that time known as Sr. Riccarda] *Ballini: First FSP Camerawoman*.

In 1973, Sr. Giovanna returned to Italy and thanks to her specialized training made an important contribution to the St. Paul Film Agencies of Verona and Udine. She continued to take film-making courses and also several updating courses at the Antonianum University, where she received a diploma in apostolic and pastoral formation.

Beginning in 1977, Sr. Giovanna's apostolic agenda diversified. She worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies in Rome and Livorno; in the book centers of Trent, Trieste, Arezzo and Salerno, and in the technical apostolate in Alba. In 1999, she began a period of service in our FSP communities on the outskirts of Rome: first Rocca di Papa, then Galloro, followed by the Thecla Merlo and James Alberione communities (Albano) alternatively, where she carried out various household duties. Sr. Giovanna—or "Gianna" as she was affectionately called—was a good-natured sister and a very hard worker. She loved singing and enjoyed conducting choir rehearsals. She was deeply attached to her younger sister, Sr. Maria Rosa, and suffered profoundly when she contracted a fatal illness, leading to her death in 2010.

Last night, just before midnight, it was Sr. Giovanna's turn. The Lord knocked on her door and she responded with her final act of self-surrender to him. And taking her by the hand, the Good Shepherd, who had redeemed her with his precious blood, guided our sister to the "green pastures" of heaven.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 28 April 2012