



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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Dearest Sisters,

At about 11:30 last night, God the Father visited our Queen of Apostles infirmary in Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

CAMBIELLI MARIA – SR. MARIA GABRIELLA
born in Sant’Angelo Lodigiano, Italy on 27 June 1925.

Like the apostle Barnabas, whose memorial we celebrate today, Sr. M. Gabriella was “a virtuous woman, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith,” “set apart” to proclaim the Gospel of Christ through her life and through the instruments of social communication that were offered her. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 12 August 1947. Her vocation was the fruit of an intense campaign of prayer, self-offering and action on the part of our Lodi community, whose members had resolved to offer the Blessed Mother the homage of “a crown of twelve stars” (twelve vocations). And over the next two years, twelve young women from the Lodi diocese did indeed enter our Institute, enriching it with their enthusiasm and preparation.

Sr. M. Gabriella made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. After a short period in Milan and Verona, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency apostolate—a mission which she carried out for many decades and which characterized her Pauline life. Several years ago, Sr. M. Gabriella herself recounted this intense apostolic experience:

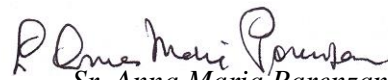
“I worked in the film apostolate for 40 years (1950-1990) in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Turin, Rome, Ancona, Naples, Bologna, Udine and Cosenza. My specific activity was programming and animation. I thank God for those wonderful years, which greatly enriched my life. I always enjoyed my work and carried it out with great love because I was convinced that we could reach more people through the language of pictures and sound, which are easier to understand and which involve people more deeply in the message communicated. It is true that this apostolate was tiring and called for hard work and a lot of “overtime,” especially when it involved visits to parishes, schools, cultural centers, etc., but the Lord always gave me the health and apostolic zeal I needed. The years I spent carrying out the film apostolate were the most beautiful of my life.”

Sr. M. Gabriella was an industrious and serene presence in our film agencies—a person always ready to competently respond to the needs of our clients and the managers of movie theaters. So as to improve her professional skills, during the 1970’s she took a course in cinematography. Just prior to this (1969), she wrote: “I have no special desires with regard to my work or community. I am happy with what has been assigned to me by obedience, in spite of the fact that my work is difficult and calls for great discretion. I am convinced that when we are ready to do what is asked of us by our superiors, the Lord will give us all the graces we need to fulfill our duties in the best way possible.”

Sr. M. Gabriella also served as superior of our Mestre and Rimini communities, and after the closure of the St. Paul Film Agencies she willingly carried out the book center apostolate in Ancona, Turin and Mestre. In 2002, her declining health made it necessary to transfer her to Alba, where she generously carried out various services compatible with her health situation. In the last few years, she resided in the infirmary wing of the community because of serious lung and heart problems. But her big smile and radiant gaze remained constant, even when her situation was further complicated by an inoperable hernia in her intestinal tract.

Sr. M. Gabriella has now left us to “sing a new song” with the heavenly choir—a song that proclaims the marvels of the Lord and his salvation for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 11 June 2009