

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At about 11:30 this morning, the Divine Master visited the infirmary of our Alba community to call to himself our sister:

CASAROTTO MARIA – SR. M. AMABILIS
born in Albaredo d’Adige (Verona), Italy on 4 October 1923.

Thus ended a long calvary that began about 4 years ago, after Sr. M. Amabilis was hit by a car while crossing a street in Treviso. The car that struck her was traveling at high speed and the impact not only threw her body a good distance but also broke many of her bones. The trauma of the accident provoked nightmares for a long time afterward, causing Sr. Amabilis to scream continually, day and night. After her release from the hospital in Treviso, she was taken to Alba, where she continued her calvary of suffering while at the same time continually thanking the sisters who looked after her. Sr. M. Amabilis never fully recovered from this tragic experience and in these last days her fragile physical condition was further weakened by serious respiratory problems.

We like to think that up to the last day of her life Sr. M. Amabilis lived the attitude of self-surrender to God she asked of the Lord when she celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious profession. The back of the holy card commemorating this occasion bears the words: “I am like a green olive tree in the house of the Lord. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.” We are sure that these words from Psalm 52 accompanied her on her long Pauline journey, giving her fortitude and courage even in the most difficult moments of her life.

Sr. M. Amabilis entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 3 Dec. 1943. She made her novitiate in the Motherhouse, concluding it on 29 June 1946 with her first profession. Afterward, she carried out the apostolate of capillary and collective dissemination of the Word of God in Treviso, Trieste and Gorizia, followed by a period in which she dedicated herself to household duties in the communities of Alba and Verona. In 1955, she was assigned to the film apostolate—a service she would carry out joyfully for many years, and which became a defining feature of her life. She worked for many years as the animator of the St. Paul Film Agencies of Reggio Emilia, Cremona, Verona and Vercelli. After a brief time-out in the community of Chiavari, she was asked to work in the SSP Film Agency of Padua. Afterward, she returned to her animation service in the FSP Film Agencies of Salerno, Turin and Udine. Sr. M. Amabilis devoted all her energy, time and skills to the cinema apostolate because she had profound faith in the words our Founder addressed to the participants of the first Congress for those in charge of our film agencies: “Ask the Lord for the grace to cultivate a personality and mentality, as well as a way of judging, thinking, dealing with others and administering goods, that is in conformity with the work you must carry out.”

In 1969, in reply to an explicit request of her provincial superior, Sr. M. Amabilis asked to perfect her training in the cinema field by participating in a study week organized by secular cinema groups in her region. At the same time she asked for permission to take a course in public relations so as to carry out her apostolate better. After our Institute closed its St. Paul Film Agencies in Italy, Sr. M. Amabilis worked in the book centers of Mantua, Verona, Taranto and Treviso.

It is beautiful to think that today, as the Liturgy asks us to contemplate the call of Matthew, the Divine Master approached our sister and asked her to accompany him so that she could draw close to the throne of grace and rejoice in his divine mercy and love forever.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Anna Maria Parenzan".

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 17 January 2009