

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

Early this afternoon, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call one of our sisters to eternal intimacy with himself:

**CAVATAIO SR. VINCENZA**  
**born in Cinisi (Palermo), Italy, on 27 January 1929.**

In her simplicity and goodness, Sr. Vincenzina, as she was familiarly called, was a fervent Pauline apostle who irradiated around her an abundance of light, peace and love.

She entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 19 August 1950 at the age of twenty-one. After a time of apostolic experience in Lecce, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1954. As a temporary professed sister, she carried out capillary diffusion in Chiavari and Rome. Immediately after her perpetual profession, made in Rome in 1959, she was sent as a missionary to the Congo, where the FSPs who preceded her had opened a community in Lubumbashi just two months earlier. But soon afterward, difficult and dangerous times set in due to political uprisings and the secession of Katanga from the rest of the former Belgian Congo. But despite the civil war, our courageous sisters did not stop carrying out the Pauline apostolate. Using makeshift means, they traveled to even the most remote villages to bring the Gospel and books on formation to the families. In those years, they also had to bear a great suffering: the death of Fr. Michelino Gagna, ssp, a martyr to the Eucharist.

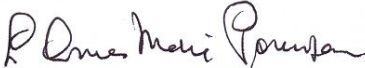
In 1962, Sr. Vincenzina was transferred to Kinshasa and 3 years later she helped to launch the Pauline mission in Kampala, Uganda by carrying out “propaganda” to the families and working in the book center. In 1969, she had the joy of preparing for Pope Paul VI’s visit to this “land of martyrs.” The members of our little community were involved in an unforgettable way in that very special event. Their book center became the driving force of the initiatives planned to celebrate the important occasion. Bearing those rich missionary experiences in her heart, Sr. Vincenzina returned to Italy in 1971, where she continued to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to apostolic visits to the families in Messina and Trapani.

Afterward, she was assigned to the Caltanissetta and Palermo book centers successively, while at the same time assisting her mother, who had particular needs. From 1980-2010, she lived in different Italian communities, where she dedicated herself primarily to household duties. The sisters of Cagliari, Naples/Capodimonte, Reggio Calabria, Agrigento and Palermo all deeply appreciated the services she carried out for them with great generosity day after day. Sr. Vincenzina was a person who lived her vow of poverty fully, focusing on essentials and never manifesting any special needs. Her entire being communicated the “joy of the Gospel,” along with her yearning to be “a living Gospel” for everyone she met.

In 2010, Sr. Vincenzina was transferred to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano due to a number of serious health problems: Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, anemia and very high blood pressure. As her physical condition declined, it was judged advisable to move her to the James Alberione community, Albano, in 2015, where she continued to offer herself to the Lord day after day. At this point her body was badly deformed and she could no longer speak. She was certainly ready to accept the invitation to participate in the heavenly banquet, the timing of which was unexpected since it coincided with the work of the Chapter Assembly to put the last touches on the Chapter Document, which will mark the Congregation’s journey over the next six-year period.

We want to thank Sr. Vincenzina because in her humility she was a “teacher of life” for all of us. And we want to entrust to her intercession the demanding days that lie ahead of us, asking that we might live them in communion, peace and a sincere search for the will of God.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 27 September 2019