

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 1:30 a.m. last night, the Virgin Mary, whom today we honor as “Our Lady of the Snows,” visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to take to heaven our sister:

CORBELLOTTI ANNA – SR. GABRIELLA MARIA
born in Carpegna (Pesaro), Italy on 24 March 1923.

In his letter presenting her to the Congregation, her pastor sketched out the obstacles she had overcome to conquer the resistance of her father, who could not resign himself to God “uprooting this flower” from the family garden. But Sr. Gabriella surmounted all the problems she faced and entered our Institute in Rome on 27 November 1941, preparing the way for her older sister, Sr. M. Edvige, who followed in her footsteps a year later. While still a postulant, young Anna dedicated herself to the “propaganda” apostolate in Cesena and Trieste. She then made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1946.

In her letter requesting admittance to perpetual profession in 1951, Sr. Gabriella said she was ready to carry out any type of work in any part of the world, but that she loved the propaganda apostolate in a special way. She was given the chance to continue the diffusion ministry, which she carried out wholeheartedly and with great generosity for the next 20 years in the communities of Cesena, Ivrea, Alessandria, Reggio Emilia, La Spezia, Salerno, Lecce and Bari. In all these dioceses, she was a faithful “postmistress of Jesus,” bringing the Gospel with great love to every family.

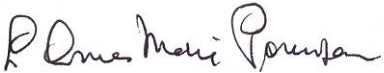
Following this, with the exception of a 3-year term as local superior in Campobasso, she spent another 20 years working in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Livorno, Catanzaro, Reggio Calabria, Perugia and Naples/Capodimonte successively. She was a very industrious sister, who loved the vow of poverty and placed all her resources at the service of the Pauline mission.

In 1986, Sr. Gabriella was transferred to Galloro (Ariccia) due to declining health. There she worked at the reception desk and carried out various household services. When the Galloro house was closed, she lived on an alternating basis in the James Alberione and Thecla Merlo communities, Albano, disseminating love, humor and deep gratitude for every service she received. She enriched the community with her wise reflections and ardent spirit of prayer, but also with many jokes and humorous stories about her experiences, especially during her years as a propagandist.

Sr. Gabriella didn’t feel ready to die, but after the death of her sister Edvige in May 2017, she became even more recollected, placing herself completely in the hands of God the Father. In this last period of her life, she continued her confidential conversations with her sister, whom she said she felt very close to her: “in the room next door,” as she put it. About a week ago, she told everyone that she had dreamed of Sr. Edvige, who had come to take her to heaven, but that she had told her sister very firmly that she wasn’t ready yet. However, the Lord and the Blessed Virgin lovingly prepared her to take this definitive step.

In the above-cited letter written by her pastor, he said he hoped that under the guidance of her superior she would give glory to God and attain a holiness similar to that of St. Paul, who burned with love for Christ and for souls. And we can say that this dear sister was truly a fervent apostle, who with great simplicity assimilated the Pauline charism profoundly and lived it to the full. Now, alongside her sister and other dear ones, she has received the reward reserved for good apostles and contemplates the face of the One she yearned for all her life.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 5 August 2017