

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
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Dearest Sisters,

At 7:10 this evening, Our Lady of Mount Carmel visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to lead to the light and goodness of heaven our sister:

**FABBRI COLOMBA – SR. PAOLA MARIA  
born in Borghi (Forlì), Italy on 5 May 1927.**

This dear sister lived among us in simplicity and humility, in a continual spirit of service, offering everyone the example of evangelical poverty lived with love and in love. Unable to read or write because of her failing eyesight, our sister made a tape for Easter 1997 in which she expressed her most profound desires, saying clearly and resolutely:

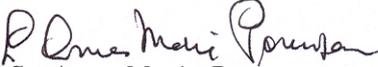
“I am now 70 years old and I think I have lived long enough. Whenever my good Jesus wants to come and get me, I am happy. I am ready and I trust in his mercy. I often call to mind the words of Prima Maestra: ‘What is death? It’s closing your eyes here on earth and opening them to see Jesus. How wonderful!’ Yes, this is how it should be and this is what I want. I want to thank the Congregation for everything it has given me and I ask mercy and forgiveness for all the things I did not give it in return. Thank you—all of you! Through the great mercy of God, I will pray for my Congregation from heaven.”

Sr. Paola Maria entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 8 January 1948. At home she had learned the art of sewing and she willingly put this talent to good use in the Congregation from the time of her entrance. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1951. Afterward, she was sent to Cosenza to carry out the propaganda apostolate but she was soon recalled to Rome to help make habits in the sewing room and to prepare the costumes for the catechetical documentary series produced by St. Paul Films. After this experience, Sr. Paola carried out capillary diffusion and the service of driver in Bologna and Rome. In 1967, she was sent to Spain, where she worked for several years in the sewing room of Madrid. In 1970, she returned to Rome, where she was assigned to the Generalate. A few years later, she was transferred to the St. Paul Film Agency of Livorno and then to that of Rome (Castro Pretorio).

Sr. Paola also lived and worked in the Ariccia-Galloro community and in the Italian Provincialate but we remember in particular her sojourn in our Torvaianica community, where she devoted much time and attention to caring for the house and garden. She wanted the sisters who spent periods of study, rest and vacation in this community to be able to take maximum advantage of this lovely seaside residence. At the conclusion of this experience, Sr. Paola was transferred to Alba and from there to Reggio Emilia. In 1999, she was inserted into our James Alberione community, Albano, and asked to supervise the renovation work being done on the house, which was being restructured to meet the needs of our critically ill and invalid sisters. She followed-up the construction work with great discretion, alert to ensure that even the smallest details of the work would respond to the concrete needs of the community and its members. She continued to carry out this service until two years ago, when she was diagnosed as suffering from intestinal cancer. Sr. Paola accepted this turn of events with courage and faith, placing herself in the hands of the Lord but also hoping that she would be able to continue her service in the Alberione community, which had many needs. Up to the end, she was an ever-vigilant and faithful custodian of this big house—the fruit of so many labors and sacrifices.

As we accompany Sr. Paola with our prayers on her journey to the house of the Father, we feel especially close to our sisters of the James Alberione community, each of whom is a “jewel box” of sufferings offered to the Lord for the fruitfulness of the Pauline apostolate being carried out in every part of the world.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 16 July 2013