

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

At 5:30 this morning, the moment arrived for one of the sisters of our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to "set sail" for heaven:

**FARRONATO SR. OLIVA**  
**born in Romano d'Ezzelino (Vicenza), Italy on 18 October 1927.**

In the last few years, Sr. Oliva had been suffering from a malignant tumor, which had pervaded her entire body. She was fully aware that the Lord would soon be calling her to himself and she prepared for the coming encounter like a bride, striving to make herself always more beautiful for the big day.

Sr. Oliva entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 2 Sept. 1949. She made her novitiate in Rome and concluded it with her first profession on 19 March 1952. Five years later she made her perpetual profession.

Sr. Oliva lived her Pauline vocation joyfully, fired by an all-consuming desire to belong totally to the Lord and to do only and always his will. On 1 Sept. 1969, she wrote to her provincial superior: "As regards work, I have no preferences. I try to adapt myself to whatever I am asked to do and I put my whole self into the job, utilizing all my abilities, even though these are few. Over the long term, I have no special requests. I trust wholly in the help of God, knowing that he never asks of us more than we are able to give. At the present moment, things are a little dark but I hope some light will arrive soon...."

A gentle, sociable and serene person, Sr. Oliva placed all her intellectual abilities and profound capacity for love at the service of the Pauline apostolate. Immediately after her perpetual profession, she was assigned to the diffusion apostolate in Milan. Afterward, she worked in the book centers of Milan, Biella, Rovigo and Trent. She later carried out the service of superior in the communities of Rovigo, Lodi and Biella, where she was loved and esteemed by all the sisters. Following this, she was transferred to Udine, where she carried out numerous household duties. For Christmas 1993, she wrote to the Superior General: "I am happy to be living in this time of history. May Prima Maestra Thecla obtain for us all the grace to become holy—a grace for which she offered her life."

The eldest of 14 children, Sr. Oliva loved both the Pauline Family and her own natural family. She was very proud of her brothers Elias and Lawrence, missionaries in the Congo, and her younger sister Lina, who had entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul at the same time she did.

Sr. Oliva suffered a stroke in 2007, followed by the discovery that she had cancer. As a result, she spent the last years of her life alternating between the James Alberione and Thecla Merlo communities of Albano. She was always very attentive to the needs of the Church and world and kept updated about the most important events taking place in society. She enriched every community in which she lived with the joy overflowing from her heart. A few months ago, she cut out a magazine picture of a beautiful young girl beaming joyously into the camera and placed it on the nightstand near her bed, saying that it was a good picture of how she felt in the depths of her being. And Sr. Oliva was truly a beautiful person! Toward the end of her life, she continually said, "They're calling me over there!" At that point, her one desire was to go home to heaven. "I am so happy my heart is singing," she confided to those closest to her.

On 14 May 2014, Sr. Oliva wrote to her provincial superior to tell her where she wanted to be buried and concluded her note with the words: "I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my beloved family, the Daughters of St. Paul, and to tell everyone how joyful I am for all the graces and help the Lord has poured out on me as an individual and in the apostolate." We too want to thank Sr. Oliva for "fighting the good fight" and for having remained faithful to the Lord and to her vocation up to the very end.

Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 30 June 2014