

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

Last night, at 3:30 a.m., in the community “Giacomo Alberione” in Albano, the Father called another one of our sisters to live in his peace forever. She was one of the sisters from “our first hour.”

GASPARI SCOLASTICA Sr. UBALDA
Born at Rovere Veronese (Verona) on January 1, 1917

Sr. Ubalda entered the Congregation in the house of Verona on June 21, 1933, following the example of her sister, Sr. Marcellina. From Verona, Sr. Ubalda was soon sent to Vercelli and then to Alexandria to spend her youthful energies in the diffusion of the Word to families. She made her first profession on January 15, 1939, after having completed her novitiate in Alba. Then she was transferred to Bari to dedicate herself to “propaganda” in spite of the fact that it was wartime. These were unforgettable years which she loved to recall. One of her precious testimonies appeared some years ago in the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*, in the section, *Letters to the Editor*. Through the simple lines she wrote, we come to know about the faith, fatigue and apostolic enthusiasm of our first sisters. Let us listen to her words:

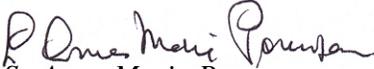
“As we travelled from one place to another, we were always in pairs in order to offer each other support and courage. Sometimes it was difficult to find a place to spend the night because we did not have an exact plan of where to go. One rainy evening, as we walked along, we saw rows of ripe vines. One of us stretched her arm up to gather a bunch of grapes, but by mistake she pulled the tail of a rooster that started to crow. The noise brought out the owner of the house carrying a gun. Our voice calmed him, and seeing that we were Sisters, his wife invited us to come in, and then offered us marvelous minestrone. This caring couple gave us hospitality for five days and we were able to make two subscriptions to *Famiglia Cristiana*. Another time we went to the bishop’s house to present ourselves, but the bishop did not want to see us. We then went to spend the night in the house of a lady, leaving our books and Pauline magazines in the bishop’s place. The next day we returned to take away the books, and the bishop wanted to speak to us. During the night the Apostle Paul had convinced him to lift his prohibition, and so, full of fervor, we were able to visit many families with wonderful spiritual results. When we did not succeed in finding hospitality for the night, we would “appropriate” the town’s cemetery chapel; there, we would sleep a little, and pray a little, but always with joy. In 1936, the Bible that was intensely desired by Blessed Alberione was printed, but at that time it was still forbidden to diffuse it in the homes. However, we followed the encouragement of our Founder and on his word we diffused this “Book” to many families who received it joyfully. In conclusion: the more that we multiplied our sacrifices, the more we were able to spread the Word of God, and increase and develop the friends and supporters of *Famiglia Cristiana*.”

After her perpetual profession in Naples on January 15, 1945, Sr. Ubalda carried out the apostolate of the bookcenter in Udine, Taranto, Catanzaro, and Cagliari. For some years she was also in charge of the shipping and warehouse in Naples and Milan. Then she spent almost twenty years in Brescia, working in the kitchen, the laundry, the house supplies and in every other service to the community.

From 2009 until a month ago, she lived “happily,” as she liked to stress, in the house “Thecla Merlo” in Albano. She enjoyed the place, the view, the sisters with whom she loved to recall the beginnings, and the enthusiasm, energy and joy she felt as she lived various Pauline experiences. She liked to add her contribution on the occasion of birthdays and the feast of Christmas by personally preparing some small gift like roses made out of colorful kerchiefs that she used to receive from friends. These gestures revealed her heart and its desire to show her tenderness for each person.

In these last weeks, Sr. Ubalda was lovingly assisted in the “Regina Apostolorum” hospital and in the community “Giacomo Alberione.” But her “race” was over, and she received the Master’s last visit in serenity, while fully lucid and aware up to almost the end. While we thank this dear sister for her great sense of belonging to the Congregation and her every effort for the Gospel, we wish to offer her a large bouquet of lilies, roses and violets, symbols of her life entirely and joyfully given in self-offering.

With affection.


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, August 2, 2012