

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,

Today, Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, the Divine Master visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy at about 9:00 a.m. to call to himself our sister:

**PANARELLO LUIGIA – SR. MARIA GIUSEPPA  
born in Curcuraci (Messina), Italy on 30 January 1927.**

In her simplicity and humility, Sr. M. Giuseppa was one of our greatest missionaries due to her truly exceptional apostolic ardor and also the profound faith that guided her even in the most difficult times. While in Maputo, Mozambique in 2000, she wrote: “I am happy because everything that I am, that I have and that I do is in the hands of the Lord. I offer myself to him continually, asking him to use me in the way that will give him the most glory and that will be useful to the Church, the Congregation, my community, vocations, formation, the apostolate.... I have nothing, I want nothing and I desire nothing but what Jesus wants.”

Sr. Giuseppa entered the Congregation in Rome on 18 August 1949. She made her novitiate there, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1953. As a young professed she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Cagliari and after making her perpetual profession on 27 June 1958, she was ready to leave for the Congo, where she and Sr. Basilia Bianco had been asked to open the first FSP community in Africa. In Leopoldville (today, Kinshasa), the two young missionaries were welcomed by the SSPs and Fr. Van Ham, IHM. On 2 July two other FSPs arrived from Italy. The sisters donned white habits and began to visit the families, distributing holy cards, medals, catechisms and a few books about the Blessed Mother. On 9 May 1959, about a year after the Leopoldville foundation, Sr. Giuseppa went to Elizabethville (today, Lubumbashi) to open the Institute’s first branch house in the Congo. She served as superior of that community for two consecutive terms of office. But there were more surprises in store for her. On 18 February 1967, she and two other sisters were sent to Beira, Mozambique to establish the Pauline presence in that country. In the spring of 1968, she wrote from Beira: “In spite of the inevitable problems, we find friendliness, collaboration and admiration for this new form of apostolate wherever we go. In this time, diffusion in the schools has been good thanks to the cooperation of the principals and teachers.”

In 1979, following a difficult political situation, the sisters of the Beira community were forced to temporarily suspend their communications apostolate and dedicate themselves to pastoral work. In a moment of particular crisis concerning whether to remain in Beira or leave, Sr. Giuseppa wrote to the Superior General: “Since remaining here requires risk, sacrifice and suffering, I don’t have the courage to make a different choice. My decision to remain here is made with complete freedom, aware of the consequences. But above all I feel that I am in the will of God, free to serve the Congregation in any part of the world....”

On 2 September 1983, Sr. Giuseppa and the small Beira community left for Maputo, where they were welcomed by the Archbishop. Here they began a new FSP presence in Mozambique.

In Maputo, Sr. Giuseppa served two terms as local superior. She was also the postulant formator and worked in the book center. Wherever she went and whatever she did, she disseminated serenity, peace, wisdom, great love for the Pauline mission, and a profound desire to live in the will of God. When she was reconfirmed as superior of the community in 1997, she wrote: “I feel like this is a new chance—perhaps the last chance the Lord is giving me—to make atonement, take advantage [of opportunities], liberate myself, grow, and prepare for my definitive meeting with him....”

In 2010, Sr. Giuseppa’s precarious health situation made it advisable for her to return to Italy. At first she was inserted in the Naples community and then, in 2013, in the James Alberione community, Albano. Chronic, generalized brain dysfunction made her increasingly unaware of what was going on around her. And in the last few days, a severe case of pneumonia hastened her meeting with her Spouse—an encounter for which she had been longing and for which she had been preparing for many years.

We thank Sr. Giuseppa for having lived to the very end the secret of Pauline apostolic mysticism: profound and unshakable faith, and a measureless, unbounded love for the people to whom she was sent. May her witness of life illuminate the young African women who want to know more about the Pauline life and may it also help give direction to our Interchapter work, which has reached its most intensive and decisive stage. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 14 September 2016