

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 7:30 this morning, our good and providential Father visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to call to himself our sister:

PAOLONI M. VINCENZINA – SR. MARIA IMMACOLATINA
born in Castel Colonna (Ancona), Italy on 21 May 1928.

Sr. M. Immacolatina entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 17 October 1942 at the age of fourteen. She quickly learned how to set type in the large technical apostolate of the Mother-house. She made her novitiate in Rome and concluded it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. During the course of spiritual exercises preached by the Founder in preparation for this event, he said to the young novices: “You have been planted near the Tabernacle—a font of living water from which souls can draw nourishment, holy thoughts, love and right intention” (FSP50, p. 51).

The Eucharist celebrated and adored daily with great fidelity was truly the strength and support of Sr. M. Immacolatina’s whole Pauline life, which was characterized above all by technical duties that appeared to be very “dry,” such as running the sewing machine in the binderies of Alba and Rome, or else by various responsibilities in the provincial secretary’s office that required discretion and solitude. Sr. M. Immacolatina carried out every work entrusted to her with great capability.

Many of us remember her kind, tactful and competent service in the St. Paul Film Study Center in Rome and in the technical office of the provincial house. There, her primary duty was to make copies of documents and assemble animation booklets useful for the provincial government’s visits to the FSP local communities. But Sr. M. Immacolatina was also prompt to help out with the hospitality apostolate and at the reception desk whenever the need arose.


She was a person who sincerely loved others, at times unexpectedly revealing the humorous side of her personality. Several years ago she sent the Secretary General a picture of herself that she asked be used for her death notice. The photo was accompanied by a note that read: “It’s not a beautiful picture because I never had a pretty face, but at least there is a hint of a smile on my lips.”

Sr. M. Immacolatina always did her best to correspond to the gift of her Pauline vocation. When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of religious profession in 2010, she wrote: “I want to thank the Divine Master for the great gift of the Pauline religious life. Today I am more aware than ever of how precious this gift is, perhaps because I am in the sunset of my life. Sixty years have gone by since I said my enthusiastic and loving *yes* to the Lord and with the help of his grace I have always sought to live for him and for the apostolate. And today, even though my strength is diminishing, that love is still very much alive. I continue to carry out my duties joyfully, asking the Lord to send us holy and good vocations to help the Congregation experience a new springtime.”

About 5 years ago, Sr. M. Immacolatina worsening health made it necessary to transfer her from the provincial house to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano. But as her physical condition continued to deteriorate, she was subsequently moved to the James Alberione community in the same town. Many sisters remember her sweet smile and positive outlook on things, especially during this last stage of her life. She never complained about anything but instead always spoke in an edifying way, her words filled with faith and gratitude to God. She suffered from Parkinson’s disease and although she was not bedridden, she needed particular care because she found it hard to swallow. She continually thanked her caregivers for every service they performed for her. Yesterday a series of brain seizures forewarned them that her long-awaited meeting with the Lord was imminent.

In harmony with the Liturgy of this Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we can say with assurance that all the activities Sr. M. Immacolatina carried out with great simplicity behind the scenes will now be known to all. Her life, like that of the sparrow in today’s Gospel, is now forever in the safekeeping of God, our good and tender Father.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 25 June 2017