



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

At about 2:10 p.m. today, the vigil of “Gaudete Sunday,” one of our sisters, a patient in the Nuovo Ospedale dei Castelli, Ariccia (Rome), Italy, was unexpectedly called to sing her “Alleluia” in heaven:

TETI GIOVANNA – SR. MARIA SARA
born in Catanzaro, Italy on 2 July 1942.

For some time now, Sr. Sara had been saying that she felt tired but no one imagined the Lord would call her so quickly to heaven to rejoice in his eternal light. This morning, a lightning-swift case of leukemia caused her to suffer a massive brain hemorrhage from which she never recovered.

For the last nine years, Sr. Sara was a member of the James Alberione community, Albano, where she dedicated herself to animating and inspiring the elderly and sick sisters. She carried out this service with great love and “the imagination of communication,” using every means possible to help the sisters remain cheerful and vibrant participants in the life of the Church and Congregation. To this end, she made the most of every technology for prayer and information. According to the style that had characterized her all her life, she dedicated herself with simplicity and serenity to this service entrusted to her by obedience.

Sr. Sara entered the Congregation in the community of Catanzaro on 17 June 1955, at the age of thirteen. She underwent her initial formation in Naples and Rome, making her first profession in the latter community on 30 June 1961 at the end of her novitiate. As a temporary professed sister, she had the chance to continue her studies by taking courses in philosophy and theology at the St. Thecla House of Studies in Rome. After a short time in the Reggio Calabria and Ancona book centers, she was called to make a valuable contribution to our Pauline Catechetical Center. During this time she acquired a specialization in catechetics from the Faculty of Educational Sciences of the Pontifical Salesian University.

In the wonderful post-Vatican II season in the Church, she enthusiastically collaborated in the renewal of catechesis in Italy by diffusing the extraordinary Council experience. She also passionately deepened the “catechetical heart” of the Daughter of St. Paul, ardently assimilating the directives of the Founder, who never tired of saying that catechesis was the first and fundamental apostolic activity, the “principal work of charity.”

From 1983-1994, Sr. Sara had the opportunity to carry out other apostolic experiences in Ancona, Rome and the Paolo Uccello community of Milan, where she was placed in charge of the editorial sector, in particular the preparation of mini-media. In 1994, she returned to the Catechetical Center, where she edited *Way, Truth and Life Magazine* and also served as the periodical’s director for several years. In 2002, while holding this office, she had the joy of celebrating the magazine’s Golden Jubilee.

In 2007, Sr. Sara concluded her service in the Catechetical Center and was appointed superior of the Castro Pretorio community, Rome. In 2010, she was assigned to the James Alberione community, Albano, to provide our sick and elderly sisters with assistance—a service she carried out with simplicity and faith and that was richly blessed by the Lord.

We remember Sr. Sara as a good and cheerful sister who enriched the Pauline mission with her lively intelligence and her desire to constantly seek new ways of evangelization so as to help as many people as possible encounter the Divine Master.

As we light the third Advent candle in our communities, let us thank the Lord that today a new star has been kindled heaven. And together, let us adore the plans of the Father, which, although unfathomable and inscrutable, are always an expression of his love and fidelity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 14 December 2019