

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 about 3:00 p.m. today, the Lord once again visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to unexpectedly call to himself our sister:

VIGNA ANTONIETTA – SR. CARMEN
born in Spezzano Piccolo (Cosenza), Italy on 2 September 1936.

Sr. Carmen entered the Congregation in Rome on 3 March 1959. She underwent her initial formation and novitiate in that community, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 30 June 1962. She spent her juniorate in Naples and after her perpetual profession in 1967 was sent to Lecce, where she worked in the book center. She was later transferred to the Divine Providence community (Via Antonino Pio), Rome, where she was placed in charge of the sector for non-Pauline editions and then worked for a time in the administration department.

Due to her maturity, well-balanced and practical nature, strong sense of belonging to the Congregation and love for each sister, in 1981 Sr. Carmen began a long period of service as local superior, first in Salerno, after which, in 1984, she was asked to launch the new Thecla Merlo community of Albano, which had been established to provide assistance to FSPs requiring long-term health care. In this role, Sr. Carmen put to good use her organizational skills, her ability to listen to and collaborate with others and, above all, her solicitude for both the sick sisters and the members of the community who took care of the many needs of the house.

It was precisely Sr. Carmen's clear ideas, decision-making skills and generosity that made her a well-loved superior—a service which she then went on to carry out for two consecutive terms in the Capodimonte community, Naples. At the end of this period, she had the chance to undergo a short period of updating before resuming the role of superior, this time in the Palermo community for two consecutive terms. Sr. Carmen's name continually appeared on consultation forms as a possible choice of superior because her open-mindedness, practicality and ability to involve the sisters in the life of the community were well-known to everyone. Thus, from 2005-2011 she was once again appointed superior of the Capodimonte community, Naples. At the conclusion of this mandate, she was assigned to the James Alberione community, Albano, to carry out the services of bursar and errand-runner.

However, Sr. Carmen's health was failing. She had undergone operations on her hips and carotid artery, as well as four by-pass surgeries. On another occasion, she had been hospitalized due to a pulmonary edema (fluid accumulation in the lungs), which further drained her strength. But in the last period of her life, Sr. Carmen seemed like a new person and had resumed her normal life. She was able to leave the infirmary wing and rejoin the active segment of her community, taking on various household duties plus part-time work in the bookkeeping office. Today she even had an appointment scheduled with an FSP computer expert to learn the in's and out's of this technology.

Sr. Carmen spent the last day of her life in a very routine way: this morning she went to the eye doctor for a check-up and then ate her midday meal with her community. At about 3:00 p.m., the superior knocked on her bedroom door to offer her a cup of tea, but when she saw that Sr. Carmen was sleeping she left her undisturbed. When a couple of sisters stopped by later to visit Sr. Carmen, they discovered that she had passed from natural sleep to the sleep of death.

We want to unite ourselves in a special way to the sisters of our James Alberione community, who are stunned and disoriented by Sr. Carmen's sudden passing, and we entrust to Sr. Carmen herself the beautiful group of FSP Juniors who today, at Torvaianica, began their course of preparation for perpetual profession. May this dear sister's witness of life inspire them to live the Pauline vocation with her same spirit of complete availability, gratuitousness, mutual benevolence and love.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 15 January 2016