

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

At a little after 1:00 PM, in the James Alberione community of Albano, our Sister went peacefully to sleep in the Lord:

**SR. M. ROSALIA BOVO (YOLANDA)**  
**Born in Stanghella (Padua) on October 23, 1921**

Sr. M. Rosalia, until the last day of her life, was a truly special person. Special for her serenity, for her ability to suffer without ever making a complaint, for the gratitude showered on everyone, for the state of continual prayer she had reached, a prayer that lit up her face with the light of God.

She entered the Congregation in the house of Rovigo on January 31, 1938 with a great desire to belong totally to the Lord. She went through her formation periods in Alba and Bari, entrusted with capillary propaganda. She made her novitiate in Rome, and her first profession there on August 9, 1942. Immediately after, she went to Rovigo to carry out the door to door diffusion apostolate in the families. It was during World War II. They were not spared frights; neither were they without the protection of Mary. The chronicles of the time tell us that on February 23, 1944 the city of Rovigo underwent a barrage of at least 60 large bombs accompanied by incendiary bombs. A cluster of bombs fell close to the house of our community. During the bombardments, which continued until May 24, 1945, our sisters' one refuge was the protection of the Virgin. During the incursions, they repeated continually "Ave Maria".

At Rovigo on August 9, 1947, Sr. Rosalia made her perpetual profession. On that occasion, she wrote to M. Tecla: "I go to the families with the Calendar, and the magazines Famiglia Cristiana, Focolare, and Giornalino. I am very happy..."

In 1954, she left Rovigo to be transferred to Siena, and from there on to Terni, Aversa, and Matera. She was an apostle moved, as was St. Paul, by a great love for the Gospel and for the people. She was always smiling, humble, and meek. She always sought to avoid being a source of trouble, and to be a peaceful and serene presence.

Not long after, for health reasons, she had to cease direct contact with families. But she continued with great dedication to offer herself as the cook in the communities of Ferrara, Chiavari, Lugano, and Trapani. Then she took care of the community supplies for the sisters of Milan, Rocca di Papa, Arccia, and Galloro. She was always on the move through the kitchen, the laundry, the sacristy...and this notwithstanding the fact that her legs gave her much pain from blockages that later on affected also her knees. Above all, in the Arccia community, where she lived for almost twenty years, she drove a little cart that helped her to get around, always untiring in her service. And when she was forced to stop, she dedicated herself to making rosaries. The rosaries she sent to the missions were countless – rosaries that were made with her hands and blessed with her uninterrupted prayer. She also gave many rosaries to the Superior General for the poorer communities of the Congregation.

With the exception of a few months spent at Casa Tecla Merlo, she spent her last ten years in the Albano house of James Alberione, the ex-IV Novembre community.

A few weeks ago, since her breathing difficulties had by then become chronic, she asked for a brief stay in the hospital. But her last days were spent at her community, with her loving sisters at her side and the nurses who had been so affected by her witness. Only and always she said "Thank You", one which was surrounded by silence and prayer.

Her death was something marvelous, full of faith and serenity. While the priest recited the final prayers of the Rite of Anointing of the sick, the Lord called her into the light of his dwelling to give her the eternal reward.

With affection,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan,  
Vicar general

Rome, January 27, 2010