

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

At 8:00 this morning one of the members of our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy was called to contemplate the face of the Father:

VICINO SALVATRICE – SR. ANNA
born in Valguarnera (Enna), Italy on 8 October 1926.

Sr. Anna entered the Congregation in Palermo, Italy on 4 May 1942. After several months rich in community and apostolic experiences, she was transferred to Rome in March 1943, where she helped to carry out Gospel weeks and also Press and Marian Days. In March 1945, she began her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1947.

Afterward, she returned to Sicily to carry out capillary diffusion first in Agrigento and then in Rome. In 1955, she was assigned to the Terni community where, with great love and generosity, she dedicated herself to the book center apostolate for the next ten years. Following this, she was transferred to the St. Paul Film Agency of Palermo. Sr. Anna deeply loved the Congregation and her superiors. In 1969 she wrote to her provincial superior: “You superiors don’t know what to give us to make us happy and make the religious life more joyous and lighter.... I am happy to fulfill my daily duties out of love for the Lord, even though this might sometimes involve suffering.... If I were a more virtuous and holy person, the apostolate I carry out would be of greater benefit to souls. I am happy to do the will of God through obedience, wherever I go and with the talents I possess. I have few of the latter but I want to make the most of them in a spirit of love. I want to ‘specialize’ in only one thing: the art of becoming a saint as quickly as possible.”

Sr. Anna spent a long period of time in the service of governing: she was the superior of the communities of Messina, Salerno and Potenza; provincial councilor and then provincial bursar of what was then the province of southern Italy, with headquarters in Naples. Wherever she went, she was highly esteemed for the seriousness and responsibility with which she carried out her duties and also for her love of beauty: she dressed very simply and plainly but her bearing was always refined and dignified.

In 1982, Sr. Anna was asked to carry out household services in the community of Palermo, after which she was made manager of the St. Paul Film Agency of Reggio Calabria. She later worked in the Salerno, Campobasso and Reggio Calabria book centers, carrying out her work enthusiastically and competently until the first signs of Alzheimer’s disease began to emerge. Little by little this malady would change her life and literally consume her.


In 2000, she was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano, where she worked at the reception desk until the steady advance of her illness put an end to her apostolic activities. This degenerative malady, combined with motory problems first confined her to a wheelchair and then to bed. In fact, she was completely bedridden for the last few years of her life.

When Sr. Anna celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession in 2007, she wrote to the Superior General: “Let us continue to move ahead together so that, like St. Paul, we will live in Christ and praise the Lord for the gift of our beautiful Pauline vocation.”

This was Sr. Anna’s most fervent desire and the Lord, almost as if in confirmation of her yearning to conform herself to him, called her to heaven on the Feast of the Divine Master.

Now our sister, like the more than 1000 Daughters of St. Paul who preceded her to heaven, has taken the place prepared for her from all eternity and is experiencing the joy of dwelling in the presence of Jesus Master, who promised us full knowledge of the Father and made himself our Way to reach that goal.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 25 October 2015