

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

Shortly after midnight last night, our good and merciful Father visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call to himself after a long period of suffering our sister:

ZANCHETTA ANTONIETTA – SR. AGNESE
born in Carpesica di Vittorio Veneto (Treviso), Italy on 14 March 1924.

Following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. Rosetta, Sr. Agnese entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 11 February 1939 at the age of 15. She spent her first years of formation in Rome and Salerno and made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1944. Afterward, she was sent to San Benedetto to carry out capillary diffusion, and from there to Messina and Bari, where she worked in the book center.

With great humility, Sr. Agnese always said that she was inadequate to receive the great gift of the Pauline vocation. In her letter requesting admittance to perpetual profession, she wrote: “I know I am unworthy of this great favor and I can’t deny that I am a little afraid because I feel so weak and incapable in everything, but I trust in the mercy of God and the maternal help of the Blessed Virgin. I hope St. Paul will obtain for me the gifts of perseverance and fidelity to my vocation and to the promises I made.”

Sr. Agnese was known for her serious approach to life and her talent for office work, which she carried out with great precision. From 1951-1958, she worked in the FSP Apostolic Center in Rome—dynamic years during which the Center provided guidance and inspiration for the Institute’s apostolate in Italy and throughout the world. Sr. Agnese carried out a valuable service in the secretary’s office, rejoicing in all the good that was disseminated from the Center, collaborating with various apostolic initiatives and also with benefit fairs held to gather funds to build the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary. Her “golden hands” crafted many beautiful pieces of clothing for these bazaars.

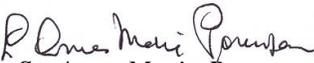
In 1958, Sr. Agnese was assigned to the Palermo book center, where she worked for several years before being transferred to the FSP Generalate. Here she performed services connected to the Bursar’s Office and Secretary General’s Office. In 1969, she was assigned to the Records Office of the Sacred Congregation for Religious (as it was then called). In the years that followed, she established many invaluable contacts with ecclesiastical officials, women and men religious, and the chain of Prefects and Secretaries assigned to this Vatican dicastery over the years. One of those for whom she nourished a special esteem and affection was Cardinal Edward Pironio, a very good and wise prelate. When the FSP Superior General asked Sr. Agnese to leave this Office to work in our own Secretary General’s Office, Cardinal Fagiolo, the Prefect of the dicastery wrote: “Sr. Agnese was always ready and willing to help those who came to the Records Office in search of particular documents, especially if the case was urgent. Her keen memory and great spirit of service made it possible for her to track down the information required, extracting this data from the tens of thousands of classified folders stored in the department’s archives. Sr. Agnese’s zeal, exemplary witness as a religious, and faithful service to the Holy See will remain a great example to us all and we will always remember her with great affection.”

Sr. Agnese began her new work in the FSP Secretary General’s Office in 1986. She had no problem learning to use the necessary computer programs and with great satisfaction was able to finish the work of digitizing the data in the files of all the members of the Congregation.

In 1997 she was transferred to the Generalate’s postal department due to declining health and a few years later, in 2005, she was again relocated, this time to the James Alberione community, Albano. The progressive deterioration of her health had at this point constrained her to a wheelchair and with the passing of time she became completely bedridden. Entrusting herself to her caregivers with great docility, she never complained about her situation and constantly thanked everyone for their assistance.

Today we too want to say *thank you* to Sr. Agnese and ask her to intercede for the needs of all the Daughters of St. Paul, whom she learned to love through the “dry” data stored in the Congregation’s records.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 18 July 2015