

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

At 7:00 a.m. today, Thursday of the Octave of Easter, our risen Lord once again visited us to call to himself a member of the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy:

**CONSIGLIO ANNA – SR. MARIA GIANFRANCA
born in Aragona (Agrigento), Italy on 8 July 1931.**

For some time, Sr. Gianfranca's physical condition had been deteriorating. A few months ago she was admitted to our Queen of Apostles Hospital because of a pulmonary embolism, but she soon returned to her community, where she continued to live peacefully and to amuse her caregivers with her many jokes. Although she was bedridden for the last stage of her life, she did not have any particular needs, serenely accepting what the Lord disposed for her day after day. And this morning, just as Pope Francis began his celebration of the Eucharist, broadcast live from St. Martha's chapel in the Vatican, she took her last breath.

Sr. Gianfranca was born and raised in Sicily—a part of Italy rich and generous in vocations, and from which she inherited her industriousness and commitment to the undertakings she assumed. She entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 4 October of the Holy Year of 1950. After several years of formation, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1954. On that occasion, Fr. Alberione addressed words of great hope to the newly-professed sisters, assuring them that they would remember the day of their profession in a special way at the moment of death: "At that moment," he declared, "the priest will not only say, 'Receive the hundredfold and possess eternal life,' but will introduce you into it. You will then remember that in life you received the hundredfold of grace and will praise the Lord for this. At that moment you will make your eternal profession—not only a profession for your whole earthly life, but an eternal profession in response to the invitation of Jesus....if you are faithful! Be faithful always, every day, so that when Jesus says to you, 'Come, spouse of Christ,' you will be able to respond with a generous *yes*, just as you have responded [today] with a generous *yes* to your divine vocation."

Bearing in her heart the desire to remain faithful until death, Sr. Gianfranca spent her years as a temporary professed sister in Cagliari, where she carried out collective diffusion of the Word of God and also managed a small book center in Carbonia, from which she was able to reach the laborers in the nearby coal mines. After her perpetual profession in Rome in 1959, she was assigned to Salerno and then Naples. From these communities, she resumed the itinerant apostolate, traveling the roads of Campania in a car filled with books to disseminate in the parishes, schools, Institutes and businesses of the region. But health problems made it necessary for her to take some time out in the restorative climate of Rocca di Papa, located in the Castelli Romani district on the outskirts of Rome.

Later, as a member of the Ariccia-Galloro community, she worked for about 20 years in various book centers of the Italian Province: Massa Centro, Agrigento, Aversa, Naples, Matera and Albano.

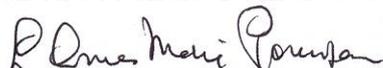
Subsequently, she carried out with love and a great spirit of responsibility various household services and also the work of driver in the communities of Naples, Massa Centro, the James Alberione community of Albano and Palermo.

Ten years ago, a series of serious health problems, one after the other, made it advisable to transfer Sr. Gianfranca first to the Thecla Merlo community and then to James Alberione community, both in Albano. As time went by, she gradually lost her self-autonomy, while continuing to remain vigilant in spirit and fully conscious up to the end of her life. Yesterday, sensing that her end was drawing near, she said to her caregivers: "I'm about to make my last trip."

We thank this dear sister for all the good she disseminated among us and we entrust her to the glorious and merciful power of the Risen Christ, who repeats today, to her too, the words that banish all fear, doubt and discouragement: "Peace be with! Look at me. Touch me. Don't be afraid: I will always be with you."

Affectionately,

Rome, 16 April 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan