

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

At 10:15 p.m. yesterday, the Lord visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano, Italy community to invite one its members to enjoy forever the marvels of salvation:

**PELLICANO CARMELA – SR. MARIA CARMINE**  
**born in Archi (Reggio Calabria), Italy on 12 December 1938.**

The life of this dear sister can be summed up in two statements she made with complete conviction at the beginning and end of the “race” she had run as a Daughter of St. Paul. In asking to be admitted to perpetual profession in 1969, she wrote: “I thank the Lord for the great gift of the Pauline vocation and I treasure its sublimity more and more. With a heart filled with joy and an ardent desire to persevere to the end in the pursuit of good and in my vocation, I renew my promise of fidelity and total docility to my superiors, asking them to use me as God desires, in the knowledge everything they dispose for me is an expression his will for me.” And just a few days ago, as she approached the end of her life, she spontaneously renewed her profession of faith, concluding with great sincerity: “I love the Lord very, very much.”

Motivated by a deep yearning to do good, Sr. M. Carmine entered the Congregation in Rome on 29 April 1961, overcoming with great faith the opposition of her family, who quickly came to realize the impenetrable mercy of God in calling her to the religious life.

After a time of initial formation and a period of apostolic experience in Palermo, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1964. For several months, she dedicated herself to the itinerant apostolate in Livorno but it was soon necessary to admit her to our clinic at Albano so that she could receive the care she required for a serious lung illness, from which she recovered about a year later. Following a period of convalescence in the invigorating air of Chiavari, she returned to Albano in 1966 to work at the reception desk and help care for our invalid sisters with great generosity. She then spent several months at the Motherhouse in Alba, preparing for her perpetual profession, following which she returned to Albano. In 1974, she was assigned to our Castro Pretorio community, Rome, where she performed caregiving services, but a year later she was obliged to return to Albano due to her own ongoing health issues.

Beginning in 1978 and for the next eleven years, Sr. M. Carmine was a member of the Castro Pretorio community, where she shared in the intense apostolic activities of the community and also assisted the sisters with the caregiving skills she had acquired over time. In 1989, she returned definitively to Albano to carry out the work of receptionist and the booking of appointments for the hospital’s outpatient services. She was aware that her small office was the “show case” of what Queen of Apostles Hospital offers residents of not only the Castelli Romani area but also the more distant areas of the Lazio region. Sr. M. Carmine had a word of comfort and hope for all, offering ready sympathy for the sometimes difficult situations of people. About 10 years ago, when it became necessary for her to withdraw from the active apostolate, she docilely accepted a transfer to the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community so as to receive treatment for her serious heart problems and other related health issues, including obesity. Last year a broken leg made her situation even more critical. Since she could not undergo surgery, she was forced to bear the cross of immobility and, at times, loneliness. She kept asking the patients next to her to keep her company because she didn’t want to be left alone....

In the last few days, Sr. M. Carmine’s situation worsened due to heart and lung problems that proved to be the proximate cause of her death. We entrust our dear sister to the mercy of God the Father with profound gratitude for her self-offering, for her desire to do good and for the love she poured out on us, on her family (especially her sister Mariolina), as well as the other relatives and friends who visited her. May the doors of the great wedding banquet in the kingdom of light and peace now open for her, and may the intense and ardent desire she expressed to the Lord during a course of spiritual exercises be fulfilled: “I want to be all yours,” she wrote, “only yours, always yours—your bride forever.”

Affectionately,

Rome, 17 June 2020

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan