

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

At 2:00 p.m. today, the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, one of the members of our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, entered the kingdom of heaven:

BARONCHELLI AGNESE – SR. MARIA FEDERICA
born in Borgo San Giacomo (Brescia), Italy on 9 May 1943.

Sr. M. Federica entered the Congregation in the community of Alba, Italy on 16 September 1959. After a time of apostolic experience in Ferrara, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1963. On that occasion, she wrote: “I thank the Lord with all my heart for my Pauline vocation. I am convinced that I have freely chosen the path marked out for me by God and I want to accept all the obligations that derive from it. I am a very poor and needy person but I count above all on the grace of God, and with a lot of good will I want to become a saint—a Pauline saint!—through observance of the holy vows and our Constitutions....”

Sr. M. Federica spent her Juniorate in Milan, dedicated in particular to spreading the Word of God. After her perpetual profession, made in Rome on 30 June 1968, she was assigned to our Verona community, and from there to Rome and then Avellino. During this time, she continued to take the Gospel to families and collectivities. She wanted to place herself in the hands of the Lord and her superiors, ready to meet all needs. As she wrote to Maestra Thecla: “I want to be in your hands like the handkerchief you gave me on the day of my profession. Use me according to God’s will.”

With this profound aspiration in her heart, she accepted a transfer to Albano in 1978 to work as a nurse in Queen of Apostles Hospital. She then went on to carry out a variety of services such as ambulance driver, the person in charge of the hospital’s pharmacy and records archive, and errand-runner for both our Albano community and the hospital. She was always available for any need, including unforeseen ones.

In 1993, Sr. M. Federica had the opportunity to undergo a time of updating in our Via dei Lucchesi community, Rome, after which she was sent to Alba, where she carried out the services of nurse and vice-superior. Following this, she spent a brief time in Verona and in 1999 was sent to our Capodimonte community in Naples, where she remained until a year ago, offering her competent and generous service to the sisters as nurse, vice-superior and driver. The hospitals, clinics and doctors’ offices of Naples held no secrets for Sr. Federica. She skillfully navigated the Neapolitan traffic as well as numerous hospital wards, offices and medical waiting rooms, striving to be useful to the sisters she accompanied, many of whom were elderly and in need of assistance. Her friendly character and ability to establish relationships with people from all walks of life facilitated the mission that the Lord had entrusted to her—a mission in which she was called to carry out diverse duties with the “creative imagination of love.”

A few years ago, while she was fully immersed in her work of assisting our sisters, Sr. M. Federica came down with a serious and rapidly-evolving brain disease. In July 2019, she was welcomed to the James Alberione community, Albano, but her malady had already reached its terminal stage and her health declined very rapidly. In these past months she was no longer able to walk, communicate with others or swallow. Only her intense gaze allowed those around her to grasp the suffering she was experiencing. And now, after a few days of persistent brain fever, during which she was competently assisted by the staff of the INI Hospice of Grottaferrata, she has gone to meet the Lord and receive the reward for her wholehearted commitment and service throughout the years, and to “shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father.” In this dear sister’s life, spent in carrying out her everyday duties with love and simplicity, we contemplate the mysteries of the kingdom of God and the amazing love which the Father manifested in and through her, offering her the treasures of his grace and the sweet hope of salvation.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 19 July 2020