



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

At 7:25 p.m. today, the Divine Master visited our Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy, to invite to eternal marriage with himself our sister:

**SALA TENNA DOMENICA – SR. M. ANTONIETTA
born in Grosotto (Sondrio), Italy on 26 February 1934.**

This dear sister's call to heaven came unexpectedly, despite the fact that her physical condition was rather fragile. This morning, Sr. M. Antonietta was ready to go to chapel to participate in the community Mass, but wanting to get there a little ahead of time, she tried to manage on her own, without waiting for her caregiver to arrive. Unfortunately, she lost her balance and fell, which triggered a severe brain hemorrhage that just a few hours later placed her in the arms of God, our Father. Thus ended her earthly life, spent entirely at the service of our sisters in response to the one great desire that burned in her heart: "to do the will of God." In fact, in 1969, she wrote to her provincial superior: "I don't have any yearnings, or more precisely, I have just one desire: to do the will of God and become a saint.... Use me however you want; I am at your disposal, ready for anything. To my way of thinking, it is not the office I hold that will make me happy, but knowing how to live my self-donation more and more integrally."

The words of the prophet Jeremiah in today's liturgy can well be applied to the life of Sr. M. Antonietta: like clay in the hands of a potter, she allowed herself to be shaped by the Father who created her, formed her and conformed her to his son Jesus by means of a journey of continual renunciation of her own will and adherence to his so as to lovingly and generously live her faith in obedience.

She entered the Congregation in Alba on 19 January 1955 at the age of twenty-one, undergoing her initial formation in this community and that of Verona. She was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1958. As a young professed, Sr. M. Antonietta carried out the apostolate of diffusion and also helped to take care of the sick members of our Alba community. After her perpetual profession, made on the Feast of St. Paul 1963, she returned to the propaganda mission, sowing the Word of God with humility and fervor in the factories, offices, schools and parishes of Ivrea, Aosta and Pordenone successively.

In the 1970's, in the St. Paul Film Agency of Bologna, she learned to appreciate the importance of the cinema apostolate in the work of evangelization. But even as her enthusiasm for this challenging mission steadily grew, she was reassigned to the province's House of Prayer in Cigogna (Arezzo) to carry out the service of cook. Sr. M. Antonietta's quiet goodness, generosity and charity toward every sister certainly did not go unnoticed. Her superiors quickly saw that her witness of life would be a great contribution to our big Alba community. Thus she was transferred there in 1981 and, except for a brief period in Turin, she spent the next 40 years of her life in the Motherhouse, first working in the kitchen and then coordinating and supervising the women who carried out cleaning duties in that large community. Sr. M. Antonietta fulfilled her services with great kindness and responsibility, irradiating an atmosphere of peace, harmony and communion wherever she went. She never spoke uncharitably or critically. Instead, she communicated to everyone her joy at belonging to the Lord and her happiness at being a member of the "marvelous Pauline Family."

A few years ago, she was transferred to the infirmary wing of the Alba community, where she continued to be attentive to the most needy sisters, even if only to bring them a glass of water accompanied by a warm smile that expressed her care and affection. In 1963, on the occasion of her perpetual profession, she had written to M. Thecla: "I have always wanted to be an apostle of Jesus in mission lands." We thank Sr. M. Antonietta for teaching us to recognize the many *mission lands* in our own environments, and we entrust to her intercession, on this Thursday dedicated to prayer for vocations, the young women who today too want to place themselves in the hands of the Lord and allow him to shape them, in the hope that they will find in him their own *mission lands*.

Affectionately,

Rome, 30 July 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan