

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 6:30 this morning, the Divine Master once again visited the infirmary of our community in Alba, Italy to call to himself our sister:

**DELLA NOCE TERESA – SR. MARIA CARLA  
born in Crema (Cremona), Italy on 17 June 1927.**

Sr. M. Carla was a sister who lived her Pauline vocation in a spirit of joy and continual thanksgiving to the Lord for the many gifts with which he had enriched her life. The wealth of thoughts she jotted down, often in poetic form, express her sentiments and above all the profound vitality that animated her.

She entered the Congregation in the house of Alba on 15 March 1947. After a short apostolic experience in Ferrara, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. Sixty years later, she could confirm with awareness: “I have always been happy with the Pauline vocation and I love my dear Congregation enthusiastically and gratefully, despite my limitations.” As a young professed sister, she was sent to Modena and soon after, together with another sister, to Piacenza, where they took over the management of the Society of St. Paul’s book center and, amidst difficulties of every kind, began the diffusion apostolate in view of the official FSP launch of that community.

With exuberance and crystal clear faith, Sr. Carla then carried out itinerant diffusion in the diocese of Ancona, followed by the same mission in Rome while living in the Castro Pretorio community. Words never failed her when it came to urging the people she met to put their faith into practice.


In 1960, she began another stage of her life: 25 years in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Sassari, Reggio Emilia, Cremona and Turin, one after the other, and that too was a time overflowing with apostolic joy for her when she saw how much good was being spread through the cinema apostolate. She did not take any particular classes or courses to improve her skills in this field; instead, she said she allowed herself to be taught by common sense. She was an expert driver but her transportation services were not limited to films.... She was proud to recall that on various occasions she had also served as a driver for Fr. Alberione and Maestra Tecla.

For a number of years Sr. Carla carried out various duties in the Turin community and afterward, in the provincial house in Rome, she assisted the sick sisters, in particular Sr. Flores Marsili, toward whom she said she used the “therapy of love,” and then added: “In caring for our dear suffering sisters, I meditate on the mystery of the Incarnation and the apostolate of waiting.” It was while caring for Sr. Flores that she wrote a poem that resonates in a special way in her own life today. “Kind death,” the poem reads, “lead us like a lady-in-waiting into the presence of God. Gather us into your arms when we draw our last breath. Raise us beyond the stars and the infinite sky and lead us to heaven.”

In 1987, Sr. M. Carla was assigned to the St. Joseph community of the Motherhouse in Alba, where she worked in the technical apostolate. She spent the last three years of her life as a member of the infirmary community. Her poetic view of life saw Alba as a metaphor of peace and hope. “Peace and hope,” she explained, “are the beginning of a new day that brings with it the certainty of contemplating ‘face to face’ the shining countenances of the Lord and our heavenly Mother.”

The dementia and Alzheimer’s disease that afflicted our sister in the last stage of her life did not prevent her from transmitting her vitality and joy to others, nor from taking advantage of every opportunity to voice her thoughts. When she became infected with covid-19, her already weak physical condition hastened her meeting with the Father. And so the *new day* she had once written about—the day of song and praise in which a soul soars above the stars and skies—began for her at dawn today, when she was led into the full radiance of the day that knows no end.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 19 December 2020