

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

Yesterday evening, around 8:00 p.m., at the healthcare residence of the Franciscan Sisters of Beurs of Villeurbanne (France), one of our sisters serenely went to meet the Lord:

**CHABANEL IRENE sr MARIE ODILE**

**born in Vaulx en Velin (Lyon, France) on August 16, 1930**

Sr M. Odile was a discreet, hardworking, and responsible sister, joyful, even if she preferred silence and reflection. In simplicity, she sincerely loved her Pauline vocation and the French delegation to which she gave all the strength and talents with which the Lord had enriched her. She entered the Congregation in the house of Lyon on December 27, 1954, while the French communities were witnessing a beautiful apostolic flourishing and esteem of the local churches for the various expressions of the Pauline mission was growing.

She spent her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on June 30, 1957. She then spent the years of her juniorate in Lyon, working especially in itinerant diffusion. At that time, an immense field of good was opening up, for which the sisters of France launched an appeal to the Congregation: "Come and help us; the field of apostolate is vast... We are delighted with the Gospel Days that are now becoming numerous. The priests themselves are calling us... All that remains for us is to thank the Lord for all of this and to pray that He will send forth laborers for the harvest".

On the occasion of her admission to the renewal of vows, Sr Odile wrote to the Superior General: "I am very, very happy to be the Lord's spouse and I am willing to go where the Divine Master and the superiors will send me".

After her perpetual profession in 1962, she devoted herself to the bookcenter apostolate in Lyon and Marseille. In this last community, in 1969, she began a long *curriculum* as superior, often coupled with the service of councilor of the delegation. In 1974, she was appointed superior of the community of Lyon and the following year she moved to Paris to carry out the service of delegate superior, a role in which she was reconfirmed in 1978. For another six consecutive years, she continued to serve in government as delegation councilor.

In 1988, after a time of absence and exlaustration, she dedicated herself in Lyon to the administration of the community's beautiful and well-stocked bookcenter, an important center of evangelization and formation, a reference point for all categories of people. In 1990, she was again appointed councilor of the delegation and superior of the community of Paris. Then, for another two terms, she was superior of the house of Lyon. From 2009 on, she served as vice superior of the house of Marseille while taking care of the administration for the apostolic center of rue Dragon. It was while in the community of Marseille, in 2014, that she fell and broke her pelvis. She patiently accepted the prolonged period of immobility in the hospital, having to depend on the sisters and health care personnel for everything. Her continuous prayer was the "Pact": with full awareness, she entrusted her poverty to the Master, to receive in return the strength, light, and the orientation for her life to come.

To facilitate her rehabilitation, she was transferred to Lyon, but there were no suitable facilities for her disability in this house either. Thus, after serious discernment and consideration of her health situation, Sr Odile chose to enter the rest home of the Franciscan Sisters of Beurs, not far from our house in Villeurbanne. She spent her last years there peacefully, frequently receiving visits from the sisters of the community who made every effort to ensure that she remained part of their lives.

This past December, her physical condition worsened. Accompanied by the affection of her sisters and with full awareness, she prepared herself for the final stage of her journey, the meeting with her Divine Bridegroom, which she had lovingly awaited all the days of her life.

Affectionately,

Roma, 27 gennaio 2021.

  
sr Anna Maria Parenzan