

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

Last night, at 11:30 p.m., the Father of Light visited the infirmary of our community of Alba to call to Himself our sister

SALVATO MARIA LINA sr LINA MARIA
born in Piazzola sul Brenta (Padua) on September 6, 1931

On the sixtieth anniversary of her profession, she wrote: “With such a great gift to treasure, I will exert all my effort not to disappoint the Lord and to be faithful in living my daily life, until the end.”

Faithfulness to the end was this sister’s commitment throughout her life. In fact, her unequivocal witness at this supreme hour precisely underlines her docility, obedience to the point of self-sacrifice, and her love for her vocation, which at times led her to acts of true heroism in order to carry out the mandate entrusted to her.

She entered the congregation in Alba on September 26, 1949. After a period of formation and apostolic experience in Brescia, she entered the novitiate in Rome and made her first profession on March 19, 1952. She spent the years of her juniorate in Milan, engaged in collective diffusion in the large Milanese diocese and serving as the driver for the community. After her perpetual profession, which she made in Rome in 1957, she continued the ministry of itinerant diffusion in the community of Turin.

In 1962, she was called back to Rome and entrusted with the task of collaborating with Sr Domenica San Martino, head of the *Ut Unum Sint* Center, as secretary and driver. In addition to being a most faithful companion, Sr Lina was a skillful and hardworking collaborator in the offices of the Center. Although she had no specific cultural preparation, with a deep faith in the grace of her vocation, she was able to guide the teachers and biblical scholars; to relate with the cardinals who had the highest esteem and trust in her; to animate the sisters who were entrusted with the mandate of the biblical missions that were organized in every region of Italy. The apostolic passion that burned in her heart made her capable of encouraging, promoting and arousing fervor for the mission. She was happy to make a contribution, sometimes a silent one, so that the biblical vocation of the Daughters of St Paul could be expressed in all its beauty and depth.

At the end of this rich experience, she willingly accepted to work in the bookcenter in Viterbo and in Livorno, as well as in the “San Paolo Film” agency in Castro, Rome. Later, for several years, she was in charge of the kitchen and switchboard in the Provincial house in Via Vivanti, Rome, and of housekeeping in Verona. Her intense spiritual life and her relationship with the Lord, which was renewed daily, enabled her to dedicate herself with joy, for almost twenty consecutive years, to the laundry and to errands in the community of Livorno. The passion that burned in her heart colored every expression of her Pauline life.

In 2016 she was transferred to Trieste to help in the bookcenter. Even as she was getting older, the smile on her lips never faded. On the contrary, she was known as the “smiling Sister,” and for this reason she was sought out by customers who felt welcomed and accompanied by her.

About a year ago, she had to be taken by ambulance to Alba: she could no longer walk and was diagnosed with serious lung problems. With docility she placed herself in the hands of the doctors and nurses, and her physical situation seemed to improve. But in the last few months—first due to *Covid-19* which she had overcome, and then due to increasing difficulty in swallowing and eating—her condition worsened, leading to her encounter with the Lord.

In Sr Lina's life, we admire the Master’s pedagogy: it was he who molded her, who made her, in her smallness and frailty, into a great apostle, an animator of apostles, a true “daughter” of the Apostle Paul.

Affectionately,

Rome, January 27, 2021


sr Anna Maria Parenzan