



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

At 8:40 this morning, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call to eternal light one of our sisters:

**TRIPODI CATERINA – SR. MARIA IMMACOLATA
born in Fossato Jonico (Reggio Calabria) on 5 March 1936.**

In one of the communitarian sharing sessions that took place in preparation for the Congregation's 11th General Chapter, Sr. M. Immacolata voiced a reflection that resonated very deeply within her and gave meaning to her Pauline life. "We have to let go of our fears and get to our feet," she said. "We have to listen to the Lord, aware of the prophetic role that has been entrusted to us, which requires us to be courageous, resourceful and audacious when it comes to taking risks." This ardent apostolic dynamism, combined with the certainty of being in the Lord's hands at all times, is the legacy that Sr. M. Immacolata leaves to all of us.

She entered the Congregation on 5 August 1951 in the community of Alba, Italy, at the age of 15. After several years of formation and a time of apostolic experience in Lodi, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1956.

She spent her Juniorate in the community of Foggia, involved primarily in diffusion of the Word of God to parishes, institutes and businesses. After her perpetual profession in Rome in 1961, she began a long curriculum of book center work in Trent, Benevento, Foggia, Catanzaro, Salerno, Palermo, Taranto, Naples, Messina, Lecce and Reggio Calabria. In the majority of these places, she served as book center manager.

In Benevento, Catanzaro and Messina, she also served several terms as local superior, inspiring the sisters to a great love for the Gospel and for the people, and urging them to find new paths for the Pauline mission.

From the beginning, Sr. M. Immacolata had rejoiced in the Pauline vocation and expressed her desire to become, like Paul, *all things to all people*. In 1969, she told her Provincial Superior that she wanted to become "a Venetian with the Venetians, a Lombard with the Lombards, a Calabrian with the Calabrians." When she was offered the chance to complete her academic education, she said that she would like to pursue studies that were practical in orientation in order to carry out the Pauline mission better. In the light of this, she asked to take courses in public relations and the organization of book forums so as to reach people more effectively and be able to present our publications with greater competence.

Afterward, while stationed in Reggio Calabria, she shared the community's anguish over the uncertain future of that house and perhaps it was this suffering that prompted her to say with great decisiveness: "We are aware that our strengths are diminishing... We must remember that we were born in Nazareth and that therefore we must trust in divine Providence... I dream of FSP communities that are truly missionary, that make our charism vibrant and effective even in the peripheries. In spite of our weakness and poverty, the Lord continues to say to us: *Do not fear, I am with you.*"

It was with this resolute spirit that she faced the news several years ago that she was suffering from breast cancer. In the final period of her life, the malady metastasized throughout her body, but in spite of acute pain she continued the book center apostolate up until last November and then enthusiastically participated in an online digital training course organized by the Italian Province. With an ever-young heart, she wanted to be ready to take on the apostolic challenges of today.

In mid-December, Sr. M. Immacolata's physical condition worsened and she was hospitalized for several days at Queen of Apostles Hospital. On Christmas Eve she was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano, where she was lovingly assisted by the sisters up to the moment of her meeting with the Divine Master, the Lamb of God, who today invited her to "see where he lived" and dwell in his presence forever.

Affectionately,

Rome, 4 January 2021


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan