

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



Dear Sisters,

At 1:30 p.m. in the 'San Raffaele' wing of the Albano community, the Lord Jesus immersed in His merciful love forever, one of our sisters who had experienced several days of painful agony:

COTZA sr ELENA
born in Muravera (Cagliari) on February 14, 1935.

She entered the congregation in the community of Rome on February 9, 1959, at the age of 24. Suffering and illness had been knocking at her door since her early years. During her postulancy, due to her weak health, she lived in the community of Albano where she learned to share life with the sick sisters and eventually to dedicate herself to them. In 1963, she could not be admitted to profession due to a persistent lung disease. She then had the opportunity to make her novitiate in Milan, which concluded on June 30, 1965 with her first profession. The words of the Founder, a few years earlier, certainly resonated in her heart on that occasion: "You will remember this day at the point of death, when you are about to pass into eternity and make your final, eternal profession. Then the priest will no longer say to you only: *Centuplum accipietis, et vitam aeternam possidebitis*, but in some way he will introduce you into it... Then you will make your eternal profession... When Jesus then says to you: *Veni, sponsa Christi*, you will respond generously: *yes*, as generously as you responded *yes* to the divine vocation."

In her youth she had responded to her vocation with readiness and willingness, imagining that she would devote herself to proclaiming the Gospel through the traditional means of social communication. Instead, through her illness, the Lord, in his impenetrable plans, directed her mission towards a very concrete form of communication in direct contact with the sick. In fact, Sr. Elena spent all her Pauline life, with the exception of her novitiate, in the community of Albano and in particular in the *Regina Apostolorum Hospital*, gradually acquiring different specializations as a professional nurse (1976), head nurse (1978) and laboratory technician (1988). Over the years, she was called upon to carry out various responsibilities serving as nurse in the admissions department, pulmonology, medicine and in the cardiology clinic. As a Pauline apostle, she offered herself every day so that from the community of Albano, "that wave of grace might rise up and spread over all those who work in the apostolate by means of the press, cinema, radio, television and all modern means..." (Blessed James Alberione).

She had an artistic soul and a creative spirit expressed in arranging flowers and in making sacred vestments and lace for altar cloths. She showed forth her creativity and good taste in the preparation of nativity scenes that she would arrange according to specific social contexts. In fact, a Christmas scene she created during the Gulf War won her a regional award in the 1990s.

In 2008, she had to give up her hospital commitments to take care of her health. Strong and decisive in character, she gradually mellowed to the point of abandoning herself like a child into the hands of the nurses and medical personnel. Due to several serious illnesses, she spent her last years in physical suffering but also in serenity, fully aware that time was short for her and that the meeting with her Bridegroom was approaching.

Sr. Elena was particularly devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes. Thus we entrust to her our sister at this supreme moment, so that Our Lady may welcome, embrace and present her with great love to Jesus, the Master, for her final, eternal profession.

Affectionately,

Rome, February 2, 2021
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.


sr Anna Maria Parenzan