

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,

With deep emotion, we inform you that at the Columbus Complex of the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, at 1.30 p.m. (local time), the Heavenly Father called to himself our sister:

MAZZA sr ROSARIA
born in Palma Montechiaro (Agrigento) Italy on 4 July 1935.

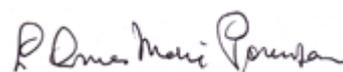
For close to two weeks, Sr Rosaria had been hospitalised, together with other Sisters, at the Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano, following the *Covid19* outbreak that unfolded at the Giacomo Alberione community. She was not among the most seriously ill: she had been able to keep in touch with the community on a daily basis, offering news of those Sisters who had been admitted to the hospital with there and, as local bursar, answering questions within her area of responsibility. Suddenly, three days ago, her situation worsened and she needed intensive care, so she was transported to Rome, to the *Covid* facility at the Gemelli Clinic. While we feel shock joined to a profound sorrow at her death, we are comforted by the flood of testimonies being shared that recall countless good and beautiful memories of her life.

Sr Rosaria entered the Congregation in the community in Rome on 13 September 1953, leaving behind a beautiful and tightly knit Sicilian family firmly rooted in Christian values. After her time of formation in Rome and Palermo, she returned to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1957. She spent her juniorate in Naples especially involved in itinerant diffusion, exhibits and Gospel Days in parishes, schools and institutions. After her perpetual profession, on the feast of St Paul in 1962, she joyfully dedicated herself to the book center apostolate in the community of Salerno.

Considering her maturity and balanced sense of life, she was appointed superior of the Bergamo community in 1968. Immediately afterwards, she was assigned to the book center in Biella and for some years worked generously and competently as seamstress at the Generalate. In 1977, she began a very long period as local superior, interspersed with short breaks. She was a much-loved and sought-after superior because of her hospitality, her attention to anticipating the needs of the sisters, her willingness to renounce herself in order to meet the needs of each one and to make them happy. Her simple and practical words, wise and sound, put everyone at ease. She was able to carry out the role of superior for several mandates in the smaller communities of Trapani, Verona, Naples Duomo as well as in the more numerous and more complex communities of Naples Capodimonte, the Generalate community, the Provincial house of Via Vivanti (for three mandates) and the Provincial house the Divine Master in Rome. Like an expert 'seamstress', she was capable of repairing and mending community life, she spread love for the Pauline mission, expressing words of encouragement, offering support and consolation, always seeking to make the house more comfortable. The provincial or general superiors were certain that the presence of Sr Rosaria would allow the communities to breathe fresh air, in an atmosphere of sisterly love, communion and celebration. Yes, she loved celebrations, which she considered occasions for strengthening communion and healthy community life. In addition, to make the festivities more lively, she would take over the reins of the kitchen, preparing tasty Sicilian delicacies or sweet homemade delights.

In 2015, when she was already in her eighties and her health was giving some cause for concern due to a serious form of diabetes, she was asked to be the superior of the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome. With her usual willingness, aware of her own frailty but trusting in the grace of the Lord, she once again said her "yes". At the end of her term of office, she humbly accepted to move to the Giacomo Alberione community in Albano where she served as bursar and vice superior. For this large community that offers assistance to the sick and elderly sisters, she provided for every need; it was quite normal to meet her at the bank or at the supermarket, always smiling, happy to be at the service of others. With her kindness and her concern to lighten the burden of all, she became for us a shining star (cf. *Fratelli tutti*, 222), a sign of God's attentive and provident presence and of that maternal care which she had learned from the example of Prima Maestra Thecla. Affectionately,

Rome, 22 February 2021.


sr Anna Maria Parenzan