

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

Finding ourselves at this time living in adoration of the impenetrable mysteries of God, we inform you that early this afternoon, at the Castelli Hospital (Ariccia-Rome), the Father came to visit us again, drawing another sister to himself:

Sr MARIA VINCENZA URSO
born in Serradifalco (Caltanissetta) on 30 March 1931

There was nothing in particular that would have anticipated this call: Sr M. Vincenza in fact was much better. After being hospitalised for a few days in the Health Care Residence of Genzano (Castelli Romani), having been found positive for *Covid*, and undergone surgery on her femur in the Castelli Hospital, she was awaiting rehabilitation and hoped to return soon to the community. Only yesterday, she had spoken to her relatives on her cell phone and reassured them that all was well... But suddenly, at lunchtime, she did not feel well and soon after came her call to the kingdom of heaven and her meeting with the Lord.

Sr Vicenza was a good sister, helpful, and very generous, one who greatly loved the Pauline vocation and mission and dedicated all her energies to it. She entered the Congregation in Caltanissetta, on 22 March 1951 and after about a year of apostolic and community experience, she went to Rome for her time of formation and novitiate that she concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1955. It was precisely in the course of the spiritual exercises in preparation for profession that she better understood, from the Founder's words, the profound meaning of the Pauline mission, *a lofty and exciting mission, an arduous mission that requires much love, a mission that has no boundaries, its only boundaries are the world.* She truly felt "chosen to carry the Word of God" and from her youthful years in Taranto, she spent and overspent herself in communicating the Gospel in families, schools and institutions. After her perpetual profession, on 19 March 1960 in Rome, she continued for another fifteen years to spread the Word throughout the diocese of Cosenza. Her steps were indeed *blessed steps*, her words flowed from a passionate heart of love.

In 1975, with the same ardour, she began her long *curriculum vitae* in the book centers in our communities of Catanzaro, Taranto and Caltanissetta. From 1995 to 1999 she spent an extended period of time with her very sick mother, while still remaining as present as possible to her community, which she considered her true family. After her mother's death, she spent a few months in the provincial house from where she was later sent to the community of Reggio Emilia where, for seventeen consecutive years, she gave the best of herself. The Sisters testify to her positive, welcoming, serene presence, concerned only with sowing good, spreading grace, bringing the needs of all before the Lord. With fidelity, love and precision, she carried out the service at the "counter" of the apostolic center, but her attention was always on the people. With a smile on her lips, she was always available for everyone; she was ready to respond to every request and, above all, to offer evangelical words of hope. However, she was not satisfied with the apostolate she carried out during the week. On Sundays, she would go out alone, with her bags full of books and magazines, to visit the sick in hospitals, to encounter them in the midst of their suffering, to bring them, in addition to the written Word, expressions of faith, closeness and consolation. And the donations she received had a precise aim: the Pauline missions around the world. With her weekly commitment, she was able to support several apostolic initiatives, especially in Pakistan.

When the community of Reggio Emilia closed, she was transferred to Salerno and then to Naples. In 2018 she arrived at her last home, the Giacomo Alberione community in Albano. She continued to "travel" with her thoughts around the whole world, praying and offering sacrifices for the thousands of apostolic intentions that she carried in her heart and especially for the initiatives of the diocese of Messina with which she had established a special relationship.

Today, with Sr M Vicenza we can burst forth into a song of gratitude and praise because the Lord has accomplished great things in her littleness and poverty. Indeed her life testifies to the magnificence and goodness of our God who works wonders in those who entrust themselves to him.

Affectionately,

Rome, 23 February 2021.


sr Anna Maria Parenzan