

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

Yesterday evening, at 8.40 p.m. (local time), in the Giacomo Alberione community of Albano, the Lord of Life called to Himself our sister:

LEDDA MARIA ANGELA sr MARIA NIVES
born in Cuglieri, Oristano (Italy) on 18 September 1925

She entered the Congregation in the house in Cagliari, on 2 February 1945 where she stayed for the first months before being transferred to Alba for her initial formation. As a postulant, she had the possibility of an apostolic experience in the communities of Massa and La Spezia and then went to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1949.

Immediately afterwards she began her long *curriculum* in the book center carrying out this office for seventy consecutive years, in various cities throughout Italy. From the testimonies of the sisters, we can say that in the book center she was truly a teacher. She was a person who gave all her strength, all her creativity, all the richness of her heart so that the center of diffusion would really respond to the thought of the Founder and become a church, a place of light, of love, of prayer, a place that radiated Pauline initiatives; a mirror of the apostolic anxiety of the Congregation.

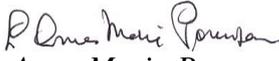
Foggia, Rimini, Ancona, Cagliari, Sassari, Arezzo, Massa and Sassari and Cagliari were the book centres that saw her as a diligent and tireless apostle, a fervent communicator, sister, friend and mother of the people with whom she came into contact. She had a great ability to relate, to talk to customers, to take an interest in their needs in order to offer everyone the awaited response and, almost always, the most suitable book. In the book center, she was a much-loved and sought-after person for her competence and, above all, for her ability to create a climate of empathy with everyone, from priests to seminarians, from teachers to the simplest people.

The book center was also the place of her spiritual, cultural and intellectual growth. She wanted to live up to her mission and considered it an obligation to acquire the necessary preparation, especially by delving into the content of the books or magazines she was distributing. She wrote to the Provincial Superior in 1969: "Enhancing the talents of each one is good for the Institute, but we must not forget that we are daughters of obedience and therefore we must always be available to God's will... Our apostolate requires cultural competence and therefore prepared members..."

She had the gift of a beautiful lucidity of mind and so was able to continue to give, until two years ago, a meaningful Pauline witness in the book center in Cagliari, where she lived for almost twenty years. She was especially involved in the distribution of magazines and liturgical booklets, but she continued to go everywhere, leaving her customers enchanted by the beauty of the packages she put together with exquisite artistry. Her telephone calls, in which she would announce in a gentle voice the arrival of an awaited book, were much appreciated. In the community, she took special care of the sacristy with impeccable finesse and cleanliness, embellishing the altar clothes with crocheted lace that she made with truly masterful skill.

In 2019, she had to leave her beloved Sardinia to be welcomed into the Giacomo Alberione community in Albano. She was getting older and her health was declining. Last February, she had been hospitalised for *Covid-19*, but had become completely negative. In the last few days, she was no longer able to eat, but she was not suffering from any serious illness: her splendid life, consumed in the mission, was elevated to the Father as an offering pleasing to Him. On the eve of Holy Week, Sr M Nives, reborn to new life, rests in hope, waiting to celebrate with Christ, the eternal Easter of the redeemed Affectionately,

Rome, 27 March 2021


sr Anna Maria Parenzan