

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

Today at 3.30 a.m. (local time) in the community of Albano, *Covid-19* delivered one of our sisters into the arms of our good and merciful Father:

**BOLOGNANI RITA sr MARIA DONATA**  
**born in Masi di Madruzzo (Trento), Italy on 28 January 1936**

Her name was a program of life. Sr. Donata always lived in an attitude of self-giving, caring for others, her heart throbbing with missionary ardor. Even in her years of illness, she carried in her heart the German people whom she had served through the apostolate for almost forty years. She remembered with love the sisters with whom she had shared so many beautiful and rich experiences of Pauline life. She entered the Congregation in Alba on 30 June 1956. After a period of formation in the Motherhouse, she carried out propaganda in families and communities in Turin and in Brescia. She then went to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1961. On the occasion of her profession, the Founder had invited the young sisters gathered in the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles to look up and admire the double dome and be inspired to rise from earth to heaven. Turning to the young professed, he assured them: "You have chosen all, that is, God, who will be your eternal crown, your prize." These consoling words would have certainly accompanied Sr. Donata throughout her life and have a particular meaning at the moment of her death.

As a young professed sister, she carried out propaganda in Aquila and in Brescia. She was then assigned for some years to the large kitchen in Rome in Via Antonino Pio, where she lovingly helped to prepare food for more than four hundred sisters who lived there at that time. Later she joined the community of Verona to help as a nurse. For some time, she was assigned to the San Paolo Film agency in Ancona, and then carried out propaganda in Belluno. In 1981, after a brief period in the community of Ariccia-Galloro, she left for Düsseldorf, a German city on the banks of the Rhine, where the Daughters of St Paul had settled in 1964. She carried in her heart the great desire to radiate peace, communion and hope. For about fifteen years she spent herself day after day in the book center, on propaganda to schools and factories, and in supplying the many bookstores in the city. She also organized fruitful encounters and exhibits among Italian immigrants.

In 1996, she went to Ingolstadt, Upper Bavaria, to help open the new community. From 1998 until 2019, for more than 20 years, she enthusiastically dedicated herself to the Nuremberg book center, a special place in the center of the city where people had the opportunity not only to find good books but also to take a break, to experience an encounter and have a reassuring conversation. Sr. Donata's simplicity and way of communicating won over everyone. And she herself affirmed, "Having the opportunity to be present every day in the book center, in contact with so many people who thirst for truth, or the need to be listened to... is the most beautiful experience."

In 2019, the first signs of *Alzheimer's* disease required that she return to Italy and move to the community of Albano. Although her illness was worsening, she often had a broad smile on her face. She was happy to take part in recreational activities and community prayer; she had settled well into a reality so different from the one she had been living for many years. She was accompanied by the profound certainty expressed on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee: "I think and I am certain that the love of Him who called me to follow Him more closely has never left me. On the contrary, He has sustained me even in the most difficult moments because His Love is forever."

The Father drew her to himself in the middle of the night in order to offer her the fullness of life, in the joy of the eternal Easter. Affectionately,

Rome, 22 April 2021

  
Sr Anna Maria Parenzan