

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

On this sixth Sunday of Easter, at 9.15 a.m. (local time), in the Giacomo Alberione community of Albano, the Risen Christ called one of our sisters to remain forever in his love:

Sr MARIA RITA GRECO

born in Palermo (Italy) on 4 February 1925

She entered the Congregation in Rome on 28 December 1952, at the age of 27, after having obtained her teaching diploma and having taught for some years in primary schools. In the Congregation, she had the opportunity to complete her cultural formation by attending a philosophy course. After a brief apostolic experience in Naples, she made her novitiate in Rome, which she concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1954. On that very day, the Founder spoke words of great hope to the newly professed sisters that take on a very particular meaning today: "You will remember this day at the point of death, as you pass into eternity and make your final eternal profession. The priest will not only say to you: 'You will receive a hundredfold, you will possess eternal life,' but rather he will in some way be introducing you into it." (FSP54, p. 105).

For almost twenty years, Sr Rita made a valuable contribution to the catechetical office of the dioceses of Messina and Naples. In 1972, she was appointed local bursar of the community of Naples and in 1980, she was transferred to Rome, to the provincial house in Via Vivanti to help in the administrative offices. This gave her the opportunity to put to good use her characteristic precision, but also to share her good humor through which she contributed to the joyful atmosphere of the house. Her jokes, always witty, were a boost to community life.

In the house in Rome, Via Vivanti, and later in that of the Divine Master, she carried out the service of superior with care and attention. She was then transferred to Palermo, as local bursar for another seven years until, with much suffering, she had to remain with her family to care for and help her only two sisters who were seriously ill. Those two years of absence were for her a precious, yet painful opportunity through which she learned to "live moment by moment the will of God and from Him learn to live detached from everything..." She stated with conviction that being away from the community led her to "value even more the richness and benefits that life together offers."

In the course of six months, the two sisters were called to eternal life, and in 2008 Sr Rita was able to return to the community in Naples, where she continued in the various services and also served as a councilor. As long as her physical strength would allow, she worked to make the most of every moment of life, to give a smile and to offer her industriousness and express her great love for the Pauline vocation. She confided: "It fills me with joy to think that as the days and years go by, the journey that leads us to the beatific vision of our Creator is getting increasingly shorter."

In 2014, the worsening of her *Parkinson's* disease required that she be moved to the Giacomo Alberione community in Albano. She was fully aware of her situation and wrote at that time: "I know that the Congregation still counts on my life, on my prayer, on my offering. I feel committed as long as the Lord gives me strength to willingly give whatever little I am able to do..."

Last February, she was struck with *Covid-19*, which further aggravated her difficult physical situation making it impossible for her to swallow. But today, the day of salvation and liberation has arrived for her, the day of the passage to new life, the day of that great Love that gives life to the full.

Affectionately

Roma, 9 maggio 2021


sr Anna Maria Parenzan