

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

Around 5 a.m. (local time), in the San Raffaele wing of the community of Albano, one of our sisters was called to contemplate forever the face of the Master:

BAVIERA MARGHERITA sr MONICA MARIA
born in Castenaso Bolognese (Bologna), Italy on 17 February 1932.

She had only been in this community for about two weeks: she herself, considering her increasingly fragile health, had asked the Superior General to leave the Generalate, where she had lived for over thirty years, and join the group of infirm sisters in Albano. Aware that her strength was waning, she was happy to be able to entrust herself docilely into the hands of the doctors and nurses. Serene and abandoned, she anxiously awaited her Lord's final call, feeling that Paradise was drawing ever closer to her.

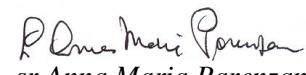
Sr. Monica entered the Congregation in Rome on 8 July 1957 after obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bologna University. In 2017, she herself had confided some details of her vocation perceived on the occasion of the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption on 1 November 1950: "In St Peter's Square, like the whisper of a gentle breeze, I heard the Lord's call. It was not easy for me to follow it, bound as I was to the things of the world... After the gentle breeze, there were strong winds and it was only at the age of 25 that I entered the Daughters of Saint Paul. Even in the midst of trials, the Lord was close to me: I could not waver. Now I am full of joy, at times it seems almost superhuman, just a step away from Paradise. Ah, the surprises of God! ... I really feel inhabited by the Holy Spirit."

Surprises were not lacking in her life: after her first profession in Rome on 30 June 1960, and after a brief experience in the book center in Salerno, in 1962 she was called to leave for the United States to help especially as a teacher of the Italian language and Church history. She made her perpetual profession in Boston in 1965 and continued her commitment to teaching and editorial work, perfecting her cultural formation also by obtaining a licence in Catechetics. Her study of English enabled her to collaborate in various ways in the service of translation.

In 1988, she was called back to Italy to join the International Secretariat of Spirituality, which was being reorganised. It was here that Sr Monica gave the best of herself, gradually acquiring a deeper knowledge of the Founder and Maestra Thecla, especially through their writings. For over thirty years, she collaborated with the other sisters of the SIS in the publication of various works. These included Fr Alberione's circulars, *Considerate la vostra vocazione* [Consider your vocation], the transcription from audio recordings of Maestra Thecla's lectures and meditations, published in the text *Un cuor solo un'anima sola* [One Heart, One Soul], and the preparation of the various editions of Fr. Alberione's talks to the Daughters of St Paul, from 1929 to the first half of 1961. Her vast humanistic culture and knowledge of Greek and Latin were of great help to her in enriching the texts with historical and biblical notes and the various indexes that accompany each book. With the sisters of the Secretariat, she collaborated in the preparation of other historical and charismatic texts: *Le nostre origini nel racconto della Prima Maestra e del M. Giaccardo*, [Our Origins in the Account of Prima Maestra and Maestro Giaccardo], *La donna nel pensiero di G. Alberione e Giovanni Paolo II* [Woman in the Thought of G. Alberione and John Paul II] *La Prima Maestra nella testimonianza di don Alberione*, [Prima Maestra according to the testimony of Fr. Alberione], etc. She also made an active and competent contribution to the various seminars on hermeneutics on Maestra Thecla's spiritual notebooks. Sr. Monica's great desire was to delve into the deep well of our charism and to extend to as many people as possible the treasures of grace contained therein, for the good of the Pauline Family and the Church.

We remember her genuine goodness, her spirit of service, her sincere search for the positive hidden in every event, her generosity in providing liturgical animation, her deep love for her vocation and for every sister, together with an intense desire to live in the will of God, in ever-fuller conformity to her Lord and Master. May the Holy Spirit, the Finger of God, now complete in her, his work of art, making her ever more beautiful and ready to experience the fullness of communion with God in the eternal wedding feast.
Affectionately,

Rome, 4 August 2021


sr Anna Maria Parenzan