

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

A few minutes after midnight, in the community of Alba, the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, introduced into the kingdom of light and peace our sister

FIORIO ANTONIETTA sr M. AMALIA
born in Vigasio (Verona), Italy on 3 January 1938.

Everything happened very quickly, in the style of Sr M Amalia. About a fortnight ago, following severe abdominal pains, in the Emergency Room of the Alba Hospital, she was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. Last Monday, however, Sr M Amalia, who was fully self-sufficient, went to the nearby post office to collect her pension. Over the last three days she gradually worsened, received with full awareness the anointing of the sick and then did not speak any more; she prepared herself in silence for the meeting with her Lord and Master. All *in a hurry*, just as her whole life unfolded *in a hurry*. *Quick*, was her watchword: she did everything quickly in the desire to make every minute that the Lord gave her bear the most fruit.

She entered the Congregation in Alba, on 8 September 1956. After a period of formation in the Mother House, she went to Rome for her novitiate, which she concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1960, expressing her desire and commitment to a holy life.

She spent the years of her juniorate in Perugia, committed to spreading the Gospel in families, schools, offices and, after her perpetual profession in 1965, she continued to travel the streets of the diocese of Lugano (Switzerland), Reggio Emilia and Genoa, with bags full of books and a lot of enthusiasm in her heart. Like Mary, she was *in a hurry* to visit families and communities, thoughtfully carrying the Word, a source of light and hope for many.

In 1972, she had the opportunity of an apostolic experience at the San Paolo Film agency in Cremona and then went to Albano to help as a receptionist. She returned to Lugano for a while and then was assigned to the book centers in Cremona, Pavia and Ferrara where she continued to generously distribute the bread of the Word. In Ancona, Milan, Rovigo, Trent and La Spezia she gave valuable help to the communities, especially as cook, a service in which she felt fully realised.

From 2010 she was in Alba, working first in the bindery and then in the laundry and in maintaining the stock community supplies. She was generous, helpful, available and happy when she could make herself useful, never showing signs of fatigue or displeasure. Even her gait, always quick, expressed her readiness to respond to requests. Especially when the *Covid-19* had infected the Alba community, like Paul, she made herself *all things to all people* without sparing herself; she did not want any special thanks, she was aware of being *a useless servant* and considered it normal to offer herself in time of need. For this, the sisters of the Mother House wish to express their most sincere thanks. In her last days, she stripped herself of everything... she seemed to perceive that life was becoming shorter for her. In her closet, she had the bare necessities, as if she foresaw that the meeting with the Lord was imminent. She wanted to *fly* to Him.

On this first Saturday of the month, with Sr Amalia, we contemplate Mary, who in her concern for St. Elizabeth, got up, set out and went to visit her cousin, carrying in her heart, as in a living tabernacle, the treasure of treasures, Jesus. In his tender and loving arms we place this dear sister who loved the Pauline vocation, who communicated the Word, and who sought throughout her life to respond with generosity and joy to the gift received.

Affectionately,


sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 7 August 2021