

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 11:30 p.m. yesterday, the Divine Master visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to gently call to himself one of our sisters while she slept:

SIMONI PIA AGNESE – SR. ADELAIDE
born in Palù Giovo (Trent), Italy on 18 August 1931.

Sr. Adelaide could well be called a “Pauline sprinter” because of the way she rapidly moved from place to place along the streets of Italy in her sturdy and reliable little Fiat, eager to bring the Word of God to everyone through the Pauline mission. She belonged to a big family from the Trent region, which has given the Church many fervent missionaries and Italy a dynasty of famous cyclists (including one of her relatives) who have brought honor to the nation by means of their impressive exploits in the art of bicycling.

She entered the Congregation on 7 November 1950 in the house of Alba, in the footsteps of her now-deceased cousin Sr. Valentina (another very active Pauline), paving the way in her turn for the entrance of her niece, Sr. Lina. Sr. Adelaide made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1955, a year which the Founder had asked the Pauline Family to dedicate to the Divine Master.

Immediately afterward, she began to travel the roads of Campania, in particular the province of Avellino, her dependable little car packed with books and magazines, which, with a beaming smile and great affability, she disseminated to the people. Like her famous relatives, Sr. Adelaide had “racing” in her blood and thus felt fully in tune with the *declogue of quickness* inculcated into the members of the Institute by M. Thecla.

In 1958, Sr. Adelaide was transferred to Belluno so as to reach its Alpine valleys and vacation resorts with the Gospel. For about 15 years she then dedicated herself to spreading the Word of God to the families, parishes and communities of Trieste, and also to working in our book center there. She found the hospitable nature of the people of Trieste heartwarming and willingly learned the local dialect. Her joy and simplicity made a favorable impression on the young women of the zone, many of whom, attracted by her cordial smile and inspired by her apostolic fervor, entered the Congregation. She had a special interest in the families of Trieste and quickly established friendly relations with the employees of the city’s central train station, where she stopped by every week to pick up the stacks of FSP magazines and leaflets to be distributed in the parishes.

When, in 1969, she was asked if she wished to continue her academic studies, she answered firmly: “After so many years of religious life, my only desire is become a saint, so I feel comfortable anywhere. If possible, it would be nice to work somewhere in the North, but I want to say with sincerity that my sole desire is to be available to the Lord’s will through my superiors in order to be able to give the Congregation the little I can without any limits. After all, that’s why I became a religious.”

In 1974, Sr. Adelaide began a new phase of her life as cook in the San Rufillo community (Bologna), and then in the provincial house of Verona. Along with kitchen services, she was always ready to accompany the sisters to their destinations by car when necessary and to assist in the collection and distribution of films from the local St. Paul Film Agency. Attentive to the needs of each person, Sr. Adelaide sought to ensure that no one lacked the necessities. In 1990, she was transferred to the provincial house of Rome (at that time located in Via Vivanti) as assistant cook and driver. After that community was moved to the Divine Master house in Via Antonino Pio, she continued to dedicate all her energies to her apostolate with generosity and love until her health began to show signs of the onset of Alzheimer’s disease.

For the last 3 years of her life, Sr. Adelaide was a member of the James Alberione community, Albano, where she was able to receive the medical assistance she needed. Her illness did not cause her to withdraw into herself; instead, she continued to spread her smiles, kindness and habitual good humor to everyone around her. The Lord truly did “great things” in her, one of the “little ones” of his Kingdom, who readily shared his smile with everyone she met, along with a spirit of joyful self-donation and a love of simple things, all perfumed with the sweet scent of heaven.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 26 October 2021