

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

At one-thirty this afternoon, one of the members of the St. Paul sub-group of our Divine Providence community, Rome, Italy, was called to say her definitive *yes* to the Lord:

COLONNA SR. ANTONIETTA
born in Civitacampomariano (Campobasso), Italy, on 27 June 1932.

Sr. Antonietta entered the Congregation on 21 March 1948 at the age of 16 in the house of Rome. Before her novitiate, she had the chance to carry out a very satisfying mission of diffusion in the huge diocese of Milan. She made her first profession in Rome on 19 March 1952 and immediately afterward was sent to Lodi, where she spent her Juniorate visiting families and businesses with the Word of God.

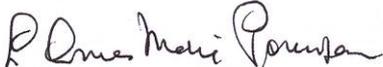
On the Feast of St. Joseph, 1957, she made her perpetual profession together with 35 other sisters in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, Rome. On that occasion, Fr. Alberione addressed inspiring words of hope to the young women—words that remained in their hearts forever. “Always aim for the heights,” he urged them. “Always raise yourselves to God. Seek God! Soar like eagles toward God. Animated by this, the memory of today will be a great consolation to you. Fortunate is the day when the Lord will call you to himself and you will once again say *yes*, as you did today here on earth. Never look back... If you continue to tread this path and live the life to which you have been called, you will receive a great crown in the end: *I have finished the race; now the crown of the righteous awaits me...*” (2 Tm. 4:8).

Indeed, Sr. Antonietta always aimed for the heights, living her Pauline vocation with joy, offering to the Lord day after day a *yes* that gradually became ever-more conscious and mature. After her perpetual profession, she was assigned to the community of Trent and then to Treviso, where she worked in the book center. In 1962 she was able to expand her knowledge of this apostolate when she was assigned to the Center for Non-Pauline Publications in Rome, after which she resumed her work in our FSP book centers of Perugia and Palermo. While she was in the latter community, she had the opportunity to manifest her spirit of availability, writing to her provincial superior: “After having asked for light at the foot of the tabernacle, I want to assure you that I am happy to remain where I am with regard to my apostolate and community, because I believe the Lord wants me here and here I have the graces to become holy and do all the good I can.”

Because of her simplicity, goodness, upright spirit, capacity for dialogue, attentiveness to the needs of others and appreciation of every person, Sr. Antonietta often held positions of responsibility. In 1970, she began her long curriculum as a local superior, interspersed with time spent with her family to care for her parents and also to carry out various apostolic initiatives. In Cosenza, Lecce, Bologna and Taranto, she was a much-loved and respected superior, who always looked for the positive in others. She never voiced words of blame or complaint; instead, she sought only what could make the sisters happy. In 1991, she was appointed vice-provincial of the Italian province for 3 years, assisting the Provincial Superior in the accompaniment of the communities. In Naples, Palermo, Salerno, Rome DP and Castro Pretorio, she carried out book center activities with great competence and wisdom. She had a special ability to involve expert lay professionals in various dimensions of the Pauline mission. She intuitively grasped which people would make good collaborators and established apostolic relationships with them that lasted for years.

As Sr. Antonietta’s physical resources decreased, she was assigned to one of the mini-departments of the technical apostolate in Rome, staffed by the senior members of the community. There, she willingly assisted the sister in charge of making greeting cards. But the relentless advance of Alzheimer’s disease forced her to gradually withdraw from this service, accepting from the Lord’s hands the eventual renunciation of all her activities. But even then, her precision and love of order and cleanliness never left her.

Up to the very end, although she was unaware of it, Sr. Antonietta’s life rose up to heaven like the perfume of incense—an offering that the Father used for the salvation of many people. For this reason, Fr. Alberione would say that today is a fortunate day: it is the day of our sister’s final call, the day of her last *yes* that brings to completion all the *yeses* she said to God here on earth. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 12 November 2021