

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

At 7:50 p.m. today, one of the members of the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy, pronounced her “Here I am” to the Lord for all eternity:

DE FELICE ASSUNTA – SR. MARIA AMATA
born in Caramanico (Pescara), Italy, on 22 February 1935.

Simplicity, humility, industriousness, docility, ceaseless prayer and great goodness are the characteristics of this sister who passed among us in silence, leaving as a heritage to us her deep love for the person of Jesus, the sole reason for her life.

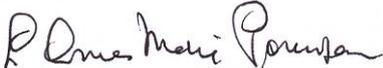
She entered the Congregation in the house in Alba, Italy, on 29 June 1955. At the end of her initial formation and novitiate, she made her first profession in Rome on 30 June 1958. From the very beginning of her formation, she felt particularly drawn to Prima Maestra Thecla. Her annual letters requesting permission to renew her vows radiate her great tenderness for our Mother, in language that is at times almost poetic. For instance, 1959 she wrote: “Like a swallow in springtime, I would like to take flight so as to be a little nearer to you and hear your maternal voice. Distance separates us, but I am united to you in the Pauline spirit. I love you and deeply feel your presence in my life. I will continue to pray for you every day, especially during the beautiful month of May. I want to become like Our Lady by imitating her virtues. The expiration of my vows is approaching and I humbly ask your permission to renew them. May your will also be mine.” The following year, she wrote: “Here I am, dear Prima Maestra, close to you spiritually, since I cannot be near you physically. I compare this yearning of mine to a spiritual communion: even now I feel at one with you in the Pauline spirit.... I am happy with everything and I want to strive each day to make progress in the spiritual life and in the apostolate.” And in 1961: “I grow happier day by day with the Pauline life and I thank the Lord for making me a member of this noble and holy Congregation. I promise to make a greater effort each day to correct my faults and acquire virtues with Pauline overtones, asking Our Lady and our great Father St. Paul to lead me to union with Jesus Master. I am profoundly content with everything and I am ready to face any difficulty in order to reach my goal, heaven, not on my own but in the company of our Lord.”

Sr. Amata’s health was fragile but she always carried out the tasks entrusted to her with generosity and a great sense of responsibility. She spent the years of her Juniorate in the communities of Alba and Rome, working with love in the kitchen and vegetable garden. After her perpetual profession, made on 30 June 1963, she was assigned to the Albano community, where she lived for the rest of her life.

For almost fifty years, she dedicated herself day after day, with a spirit of self-sacrifice, to services in the large refectory, where she coordinated the bread supply and also took care of cleaning the table cruets and putting the entire room in order. In performing these daily duties, she was sustained by her strong and intimate relationship with the Lord, whom she contemplated especially in his crucifixion. She deeply loved the *Pauline Family Prayer Book* and took her personal copy with her wherever she went. That prayer book was literally worn out with use. In fact, Sr. Amata’s very life had become a prayer of unceasing intercession for all humanity.

Last April, our sister came down with Covid 19. After a few weeks of hospitalization, she returned to the Albano community, but from that time on her pulmonary and cardiovascular problems got progressively worse. She lived the last months of her life in silence and peace, thanking all her caregivers with a gentle smile for every kindness and attention she received from them.

As we bid farewell to Sr. Amata here on earth, we entrust her to God, our merciful Father, asking him to cradle her in his arms and grant her fullness of life. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 10 January 2022