

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

At 6:40 a.m. today, Good Friday, the Lord of Life visited our San Raffaele community, Albano, Italy, to gently call to himself our sister:

**DEHÒ CAMILLA – SR. MARIA ADEODATA  
born in Miradolo Terme (Pavia), Italy, on 25 August 1923.**

Sr. Adeodata was a much-loved sister who spent and overspent herself with keen intelligence and deep love so that all people would be faithful to God's gift to them and respond to his dream for them. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 8 June 1946, the eve of Pentecost, after having literally run away from home to enter the convent with Sr. Fausta, a very dear friend of hers. Sr. Adeodata herself confided: "If the Lord had not overwhelmed me with his Word and his love, I certainly would never have had the courage to leave my family in the way I did that day." She was an elementary school teacher and would have liked to continue to *teach*, as a means of corresponding to her deep yearning to *joyfully offer the gift of her life to the Lord*. But he was calling her not so much to be a *teacher* as to follow him as Master.

She wrote a few years ago: "That day, the Lord enrolled me in the 'teachers' training school' of which he is not only the professor but also the sole Master—the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is everything! Such a great gift can't be summarized in just a few lines. Following the recommendations and examples of Fr. Alberione and Maestra Thecla, I gradually came to understand that it was not *I* who had made a gift of my life to the Lord, but *he* who had given me a tremendous gift: the Pauline vocation! Corresponding to this gift meant letting *Christ live in me*, because, as St. Paul said, everything else is rubbish."

She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1949. Immediately afterward, she studied philosophy and theology while living in the communities of Rome and Grottaferrata. From 1954-1959, she served as formation mistress of the large group of FSP aspirants in Alba. She was then appointed superior of the large Motherhouse community—an office she held until 1963, when she was sent to Milan to succeed Sr. Nazarena Morando as novice mistress. She carried out this role for just a short time (she didn't finish accompanying her fourth group of novices) but that experience remained in her heart forever. As long as her strength permitted, she presented all her novices to Jesus Master in her daily prayers and she had special memories of them all.

In 1966 Sr. Adeodata was once more appointed superior of the Alba community. She carried out this responsibility until 1970, when she was called to accompany, as provincial superior, the newly-erected Province of Northwest Italy, with headquarters in Milan. Afterward, she served as local superior of the Lodi community for two consecutive terms, greatly enjoying the chance to have closer contact with families, priests, seminarians and the many other people who continually flowed into the book center. At the end of her second term of office, she was asked to serve on the commission charged with drafting a renewed edition of the Congregation's Constitutions.

During our Fifth General Chapter (1983), Sr. Adeodata was elected the Congregation's General Councilor for Spirituality and Vicar General. At the end of the 6-year term, during which she had had the joy of getting to know many sisters from different cultures, she was assigned to the Generalate community, where she worked in the International Secretariat for Spirituality. She saw this as another great gift of God, who was calling her to work on the *Opera Omniae* of Fr. Alberione and M. Thecla. For almost thirty years she dedicated herself with precision and love to penetrating the Pauline charism more deeply by editing almost all the texts of the Founder's preaching to the Daughters of St. Paul that have been published to date. She wrote: "Their words and examples are a constant wake-up call for me. And love for the future members of the Pauline Family sustains my effort to study and transform those typescripts and taped conferences into Pauline editions." She added with heartfelt sincerity: "Lord, I thank you with all

my heart for my years of Pauline life!” In spite of her full schedule, Sr. Adeodata did not neglect her collaboration with the biblical ministry of St. Bruno Parish [the parish to which the Generalate community belongs], which brought her into weekly contact with its families and gave her the opportunity to provide them with down-to-earth lessons on the Word of God.

She spent the last three years of her life in the San Raffaele assisted-care community at Albano, where she surprised the doctors and her caregivers with the lucidity, dignity and composure with which she lived the last stage of her life. Especially in recent times, she was often very quiet, immersed in prayer although aware of what was going on around her, her face illuminated by a gentle smile. In her last days, she would stretch out her hand to caress the sisters and staff who watched over her. One could sense that she carried in her heart the many intentions for which she had offered her life.

Even in her weakened condition, Sr. Adeodata continued to read the Pauline periodicals and various letters and information circulars that arrived in the San Raffaele community. In fact, just the other day she was found holding in her hands the Superior General’s Easter letter to all the Daughters of St. Paul. We can truly say that up to the very end she was a genuine *teacher* who eloquently showed us all how to live and die as authentic Paulines.

With profound emotion and gratitude, we entrust our dear sister to the merciful arms of the Father, in the certainty that we have a new protector in heaven—a sister who has “drawn near to the throne of grace” and is now begging the Lord to grant peace and salvation to all humanity.

Affectionately,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 15 April 2022  
Good Friday