

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

As our journey toward Easter intensifies, our merciful Father visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy at 9:45 p.m. yesterday, to call to himself one of our sisters, who had been sick for many years:

SANTONICOLA WANDA – SR. MARIA REDENTA
born in Nocera Inferiore (Salerno), Italy, on 17 August 1933.

The life of this dear sister can be summed up in a letter she wrote to her provincial superior in 1969: “I do not want to give you a list of my desires and preferences,” she said. “I am happy with whatever apostolate you choose to entrust to me because I am sure that God communicates his will for me through the requests of my superiors. On my part, I will do my best to fulfill those requests.”

Joy, gratitude, a readiness to obey, and the firm resolve to dedicate herself wholeheartedly to every duty asked of her—these were the dominant features of Sr. Redenta’s personality. Her unconditional self-offering, which enriched the whole Congregation, reached its high point in the many years of illness that the Lord asked her to bear in union with his Paschal Mystery, during which she offered herself to him as a victim, immolating herself for the salvation of many.

She entered the Congregation in the house in Rome on 15 October 1953. After a time of initial formation and a period of apostolic experience in Cagliari, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary on 30 June 1957. The Founder had dedicated that year to St. Paul and he urged all the newly-professed sisters to “strain forward,” to contemplate the beauty of the Pauline vocation, to appreciate it more and more, to live it, feel it, and consider themselves to be God’s co-workers in the salvation of souls.

Treasuring the wealth of her apostolic experiences in the central house of the Congregation, she spent her Juniorate in Messina, taking the Word of God to schools, parishes, institutes and businesses. In 1961 she returned to Rome to prepare for her perpetual profession, which she made on the Feast of St. Paul, 1962.

Following this, Sr. Redenta returned to her mission of diffusion, taking the Gospel to the people of Aquila and other dioceses in the Abruzzo region. She carried out this apostolate with great enthusiasm for the next 8 years. From there, she was transferred to the Generalate, where she continued the work of spreading the Word of God and also served as a driver and errand-runner for the community. Apostolic activities, driver, errand-runner—these were the services that characterized the next 35 years of her Pauline life (1975-2010), up until illness forced her to give up her busy lifestyle and constrained her to bed.

Sr. Redenta rarely had a fixed work schedule or days of rest. She dedicated the best of herself to all the services asked of her, including collaboration with the *Ut Unum Sint* Center, where her work is still remembered with great appreciation. After a time in Rome, she was assigned to our community of Livorno and then to that of Naples/Capodimonte. In 2005, she was transferred to the James Alberione community of Albano and later to the nearby Thecla Merlo community, where she worked at the reception desk up until 2010. At that point her deteriorating health obliged her to withdraw from the active apostolate in obedience to the will of the Lord, who was preparing her for long years of silence and immobility.

Affected by severe encephalopathy (generalized brain dysfunction), Sr. Redenta experienced a progressive stiffening of her entire body that eventually reduced her to a comatose state. Her life, united to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, was truly immolated for the good of countless people. Her bed, enveloped in silence, was transformed into the altar of her daily self-offering, her incessant *Amen* to the will of God. From that bed, the sweet perfume of her life rose to the Lord, spreading the Word far and wide through the witness of her life, poured out for the sake of the Gospel in an ongoing act of pure love.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 5 April 2022