

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

At 5:00 a.m. today, the first Sunday of the month of April, the Blessed Mother visited our Thecla Merlo community of Albano, Italy, to take home to heaven our sister:

VIGORELLI ANGELINA – SR. MARIA ANNUNZIATA
born in Copiano (Pavia), Italy, on 9 January 1926.

“My one ambition in life is to belong only and always to Jesus.” These words, written on the eve of her first profession, are an excellent summary of the life of our dear sister, who always aimed to do as much good as possible to others by donating herself to them without limits.

She entered the Congregation in Alba, Italy, on 25 May 1947, urged on by a strong desire to offer herself to God. After a time of formation and apostolic experience in door-to-door outreach in the diocese of Turin, she made a year of novitiate in Rome, along with about seventy other sisters, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1950. In her request for admission to profession, she had written to Prima Maestra Thecla with great ardor: “Now, more than ever, I feel the desire and need to donate and consecrate myself completely to Jesus. I trust that he who is calling me to live in unity with him will give me all the graces necessary to do this. I feel that I am taking this step aware of what I want, and I am willing to do anything to realize my goal... I can’t list all my desires because they are too numerous, so I will simply say that I want to be a Daughter of St. Paul and a useful member of the Congregation. I would like to be a missionary, and I would make sure that my self-offering is generous and total.”

Immediately after her profession, Sr. M. Annunziata was assigned to the Pauline film apostolate, which in those years was taking root throughout Italy. For almost 35 years, she carried out this precious and delicate mission in some of the most important St. Paul Film Agencies in the country, ranging from Naples to Bologna, from Messina to La Spezia and Brescia. The Agency’s information desk became the “pulpit” from which she helped to proclaim the Gospel via the cinema apostolate to parishes, schools and communities. That apostolic context, which called for richness of heart and missionary passion, was also the place where she said *yes* to the Divine Master on a daily basis—the “total, joyful *yes*” M. Thecla wished for her in a personal note to her on the eve of her perpetual profession.

The breadth of Sr. M. Annunziata’s horizons enabled her to unite the film apostolate with the service of provincial councilor from 1976 to 1978, working at the side of Sr. Luigina Borrano, who at that time was provincial superior of the FSP communities of Southern Italy.

When the Thecla Merlo community, dedicated to the care of the sick and elderly members of the Province, was opened in Albano in 1984, Sr. M. Annunziata affirmed her full availability to the request to work there as a nurse. This mission required a radical transformation of her apostolic perspectives and she prepared herself for it by obtaining a diploma in nursing. From that time on, she worked in the field of health care and assistance, channeling the best of her energies into this service.

Sr. Annunziata spent almost 40 years in the Thecla Merlo community of Albano and the Divine Providence community in V. Antonino Pio, Rome, where she devoted herself with great love and complete dedication to the Province’s most needy sisters, many of whom she accompanied to their encounter with the Father.

In 2006, she was called to say *yes* to another visitation of the Lord, which manifested itself through a stomach tumor that later spread to other parts of her body. She was reassigned to the Thecla Merlo community, where she lived for the next 13 years, dedicating her time and training to the preparation of medicines and also to crochet work—a craft in which she was a true artist.

After allowing her to undergo a month of intense suffering, the Divine Master called her today to complete his spousal covenant with her and enable her to make something new, beautiful and holy sprout from her life.

Affectionately,

Rome, 2 April 2022


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan