

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 11:00 p.m. last night, as the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary drew to a close, the Divine Master passed through our James Alberione community of Albano, Italy, to call one of our sisters there to “proclaim the greatness of the Lord forever”:

**FORNARO ROSA – SR. MARIA MARGHERITA**  
**born in Pulsano (Taranto), Italy on 8 May 1930.**

She belonged to a beautiful, hard-working and very religious family from the Puglia region in southern Italy. Her father, a devout member of the Third Order of St. Francis, was considered a true moral leader in the village, and her mother was a Third-Order Carmelite. Their children grew up in an atmosphere of piety and social commitment well suited to the growth and development of vocations. And indeed, their eldest child, Maria Anna, soon entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, and at her profession received the name Sr. M. Emma. She was followed by Rosa (who became Sr. M. Margherita) and then by M. Margherita (who took the name Sr. M. Teresa). Thus three sisters by blood became sisters also by vocation, distinguishing themselves for their apostolic enthusiasm, faith, and wisdom.

Sr. M. Margherita entered the FSPs in the house in Rome on 8 May 1945, the day of her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. She underwent her initial formation in Alba and her novitiate in Rome, concluding the latter with her first profession on 19 March during the Holy Year of 1950. She spent her Juniorate in Venice, spreading the Gospel to families and businesses. After her perpetual profession in 1955, she continued her mission of disseminating the Word of God in the dioceses of Campobasso and Potenza.

Sr. M. Margherita carried out this apostolate with joy and deep conviction, spurred on by the fiery words of the Apostle Paul and the equally ardent words of Blessed James Alberione, which she always carried in her heart. A few years ago, she confided to the Superior General: “I have never forgotten what our beloved Founder said to me so forcefully: ‘Never forget that you are the postmistress of Jesus!’ I was proud to be called this and I won’t hide the fact that his words still echo within me. For me it was a great joy to reach even the most remote cottages to bring people the Gospel or even a simple leaflet. All our deeds are recorded in heaven and because of that I am always joyful—always!”

In 1967, Sr. M. Margherita began another stage of her apostolic life, which saw her totally committed to the service of the Gospel through our Pauline book centers. In Potenza, Naples/Vomero, Ravenna, Cosenza, Ferrara and Naples/Capodimonte, she carried out her mission of evangelization, facilitating it by means of her kind smile, cordiality and warm outreach to others. Sr. M. Margherita was very happy with her vocation and she communicated this profound sentiment to all, offering words of comfort, support, consolation and hope to everyone with whom she interacted. She was also called to accompany the sisters of Potenza in the role of local superior for three years.

In 1999, Sr. M. Margherita was transferred to Naples Capodimonte, where she remained up to almost the end of her life, working serenely and competently in the book center and also lending hand at the community reception desk. A few years ago, her health began to decline and she was obliged to gradually withdraw from her apostolic activities, which she had always carried out with contagious enthusiasm. Although she was not suffering from any particular illness, about three months ago she was asked if she would be willing to relocate to the James Alberione community of Albano, so as to take advantage of the ongoing care her increasingly fragile physical condition required. Her call to heaven took place quietly and peacefully, while she and the caregivers at her bedside were praying the rosary together. In an instant, her life was transformed into a tangible expression of M. Thecla’s encouraging words: “When we die, we close our eyes to this earth and open them to heaven, where we will see God! How stupendous! What more could we want?” (CSAS, 109) We now place this fervent Pauline apostle in the arms of God the Father, asking him, in harmony with today’s Gospel reading, to consecrate her to himself forever in the truth (cf. Jn. 17:19). Affectionately,

*R. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 1 June 2022