



ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
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Dearest Sisters,

At noon today, the Divine Master visited our community of Alba, Italy, to enfold, with the love of a Bridegroom, our sister:

**ZANINI TERESA MARIA – SR. MARIA CARMINE**  
**born in Grezzana (Verona), Italy on 14 May 1933.**

A shy, reserved, but also strong and energetic sister, she brought to the Congregation her deep desire to do the Lord's will in every situation—"to be holy with a capital S," as Maestra Thecla encouraged her in 1957. And Prima Maestra reconfirmed this encouragement in 1961, on the occasion of Sr. M. Carmine's perpetual profession, writing on the back of a holy card: "Be joyful and become holy. In the midst of the pots and pans, you can become even more holy."

Sr. M. Carmine entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 27 September 1952. She underwent her initial formation in the Motherhouse, after which she was sent to Milan, where she lived an intense apostolic experience of disseminating the Word of God. She made her novitiate in Rome, along with 56 other novices, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1956, at the end of a memorable course of spiritual exercises guided by the Founder himself. The passionate words of Blessed James Alberione to the group, urging them to be "souls who love the Eucharist," to have the heart of Paul, to open themselves more and more to Jesus, to feel him, and to empty themselves of self-love in order to be penetrated by the love of God, remained in her heart throughout her life. Fortified by these aspirations, she lived the time of her Juniorate in the Turin community, where she carried out collective diffusion to factories, offices and institutes. After her perpetual profession in 1961, she was assigned to kitchen services in the communities of Piacenza, Perugia, Treviso and Rovigo. For a few years, she also worked in the sewing room in Rome.

Following this, she spent about fifteen years in the St. Paul Film Agencies in Mestre, Udine, and Reggio Calabria, where she double-checked the films returned by the parishes and groups that had rented them.

In 1987, Sr. M. Carmine returned to Alba to work in the sewing room, after which she was transferred to Livorno, where she was assigned to the book center, which gave her the joy of direct contact with every category of people. Savona, Reggio Calabria and Arezzo were the last branch houses in which she lived, working above all in the kitchen, before she returned permanently to Alba. There, she dedicated herself to various community services, especially that of seamstress.

An abdominal tumor for which she had undergone surgery had depleted her energy, but until a few months ago she continued to get around independently. In the last stage of her life, however, an infection of the temporal aorta and severe heart and lung failure hastened her meeting with her Lord and Master.

Sr. M. Carmine had a special fondness for Psalm 121, which she said reminded her of the solicitous, fatherly presence of God in all the circumstances of life. In her name, let us too pray this psalm of trust and hope:

"The guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. By day the sun cannot harm you, nor the moon by night. The Lord will guard you from all evil; he will always guard your life. He will guard your coming and going, both now and forever."

Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, 4 July 2022