



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

At 10:45 a.m. today, our good and merciful Father visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy to call to live forever in the splendor of his kingdom, our sister:

**LANZONI MARIA PIA – SR. MARIA GLORIA**  
**born in Pieve di Cento (Bologna), Italy, on 8 March 1939.**

Sr. Gloria was a sister who had communication in her heart and spent her life recounting the beauty of the Gospel and the Pauline charism through photographs, pictures, exhibitions, video clips and various audiovisual montages. She had a special talent for using the new languages of the media to focus on the richness of the Faith and on the highlights of our Pauline history.

Sr. Gloria belonged to a deeply Christian family that gave three sons and two daughters to the Church as religious. She entered our Congregation in the house in Alba on 19 Sept. 1955. She spent a time of apostolic experience in Reggio Emilia and then made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. She completed her cultural formation by attending the Liceo Artistico at the Beato Angelico Institute in Milan. After her perpetual profession in 1964, she put her artistic studies to good use in the FSP graphics department in Rome and also by teaching the history of art as an element of the philosophical and theological courses held in the Congregation. She was a passionate teacher who truly “made the stones speak” so as to reveal to everyone the deep spirituality of Christian art, especially that of the Romanesque and Gothic periods.

In 1972, Sr. Gloria welcomed the request to strengthen our missionary presence in Sydney, Australia, and two years later, she accepted a transfer to Montreal, Canada. Upon returning to Italy in 1977, she was assigned first to Rome and then to Lodi, where she prepared audiovisual material in the form of slide montages and short TV programs. With keen intuition, she produced a series of interviews in 1983 with our Pauline sisters and brothers of the “first hour” concerning the beginnings and development of our Institute, as well as on the person of Fr. Alberione and the role of Maestra Thecla—material that continues to be very valuable with regard to documenting the history of the Pauline Family. From 1993-1996, she served as superior of the community of Perugia, although she carried in her heart a yearning to devote herself completely to audiovisual animation.

For a few years (2001-2004), Sr. Gloria worked in our FSP Publishing Center in Milan, where she was involved in photographic research. Returning to Rome, she continued this apostolate through the production of slides, audiocassettes and videotapes, while also serving as group leader, vice-superior and animator of various retreat courses. She was assigned to the magazine sector for a time. In 2015, Sr. Gloria was transferred to the James Alberione community of Albano, where she devoted herself to the animation of our sick and elderly sisters. She strongly believed in the need to help these sisters keep their missionary and ecclesial horizons wide open in order to motivate their sufferings and daily self-offering. But her own health, already precarious due to thyroid cancer and a very risky surgery she underwent in 2018, continued to deteriorate, bringing her to the point of complete immobility.

In the light of today’s Liturgy, which encourages us to turn our gaze to what is humble and small, the plea that Sr. Gloria made at our 11<sup>th</sup> General Chapter is very meaningful. “Perhaps,” she said, “we need to forget ourselves, our own roles and responsibilities, and return to the Gospel perspective of choosing what the world considers small and unimportant...”

May our heavenly Father, who invites the poor to the festive assembly of the new covenant, welcome this very dear sister of ours to the banquet of his kingdom and fill her with endless joy.

Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, 28 August 2022