

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

At 8:30 this morning, one of the members of our Thecla Merlo community, Albano, Italy, unexpectedly passed away:

**BUDAI SR. FERRUCCIA**  
**born in Gonars (Udine), Italy on 14 August 1941.**

Sr. Ferruccia belonged to a large, hard-working family in the Friuli region and as a teenager and young adult she was a valuable help in organizing the family business, looking after its interests and quickly learning how to relate to the business world and banking. Very industrious by nature, she was also a quiet, dutiful, extremely responsible and trustworthy person.

She entered the Congregation in the Divine Providence community, Rome, on 19 August 1964, at the age of 23. After her initial formation and a period of apostolic experience in Palermo and Cagliari, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1969. Sr. Ferruccia was eager to respond to the Lord in an always more profound way. She made every effort to make continual progress on the spiritual and apostolic levels in order to carry out the Pauline mission ever-more effectively, *working more with her head than with her physical strength*, as she herself put it.

During her Juniorate, she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Palermo and Cagliari and then had the opportunity, in Verona and Rovigo, to deepen her cultural formation, earning a diploma as an accountant in 1974. She aspired to better professional training so as to respond adequately and responsibly to her vocation and to the challenges of evangelization. She immediately had the opportunity to put what she was learning to good use when she was assigned to the bursar's office of the Provincial House in Bologna. Afterward, she and her co-novices were sent to Alba prepare for their perpetual vows, which they made on 29 June 1975.

In Bologna and Turin, Sr. Ferruccia experienced the beauty and efficacy of apostolic itinerancy as an "EP Agent": a mode of diffusion that brought her into direct contact with the secular bookstores scattered throughout those regions. An experienced driver (she had already driven trucks before entering the Institute), she had no trouble traveling hundreds of kilometers to reach the many bookshops in the zones entrusted to her. Fully convinced of the importance of the Pauline mission, she took the opportunity on her short stopovers in our various FSP communities to guide animations for the sisters, during which she insisted on the beauty of the apostolate and on the need to be well-prepared for it, leave nothing to improvisation and feel fully responsible for the light of the Word placed in our hands each day.

In 1982, she was assigned to the administration office of our Provincial House in Rome and then spent ten years in Lecce, involved in book center coordination. Following this, Sr. Ferruccia worked in the central office of the Province's apostolic centers in Rome, after which she was appointed provincial councilor for the apostolate in 1997. She carried out this responsibility with dynamism and foresight, encouraging the sisters to look far ahead and, above all, to strive to reach the truly poor—the ones poor in spiritual values.

When her term of office expired, she returned to her beloved book center apostolate in the communities of Verona and Palermo. In 2009, she was again called to the service of provincial councilor, after which she was transferred to Bologna to coordinate our apostolic center there. In 2019, while in Brescia, she began to exhibit the first signs of Alzheimer's disease—the malady that would lead to her definitive encounter with the Father.

Transferred the following year to the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, Sr. Ferruccia spent the last period of her life in silence and prayer. By now she was able to communicate only with her eyes, but we are sure her heart was filled with ceaseless self-offering for the many intentions that had motivated her existence. Bedridden for about a month as her illness progressively worsened, her call to heaven took place unexpectedly but peacefully. May our sister now live forever with Christ, in the intimacy of his love and in the light of his grace. Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 12 September 2022