

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

At 11:30 a.m. today, the First Sunday of Lent, our good and merciful Father visited the Divine Providence community of Rome, Italy at 11:30 a.m. to call to the splendor of eternal life our sister:

BELTRANO SR. TERESA
born in Celico (Cosenza), Italy, on 23 March 1968.

She was a sister who carried great apostolic ideals and dreams in her heart and who longed to dialogue with today's culture so as to create spaces for encounter, communication and collaboration at all levels. A joyful, dynamic, creative and perpetually smiling person, Sr. Teresa was very enthusiastic about the Pauline vocation. She wrote a few years ago, "I feel in my soul that we cannot stifle what the Spirit is suggesting to us: it is necessary to refresh some of the values that characterize our mission and not allow small seeds of good to die."

On 22 August 1988, after graduating from a women's technical school with a degree in fashion design, she left her beautiful, simple and hard-working family to enter our Congregation in the La Spezia community. She made her postulancy in the via Bosio community, Rome, and her novitiate at the Generalate, concluding this stage of her Pauline journey with her first profession on 25 January 1993. Afterward, Sr. Teresa was assigned to the book center apostolate, first in Reggio Calabria and then in Lecce. She was given the opportunity to continue her academic studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, from which she received a degree in Religious Studies and a Diploma in Social Communications. On 28 February 1999, she joyfully made her perpetual profession in Rome, fully convinced that the Lord had thought of her from the very outset as a Pauline.

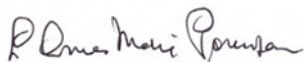
She was then sent to our Bologna book center, where she collaborated intensively with the Diocese, especially in the areas of communication and catechesis. When she was transferred to Naples, she worked in the book center's audiovisual sector for about five years, while continuing to contribute to the diocesan weekly newspaper and its Social Communications Office. Sr. Teresa, who loved establishing relationships, was delighted to open the book center to surrounding zones and to the Local Church.

She was very proud of the new title she had received on her profession day: "Daughter of St. Paul." And like the Apostle Paul, she was always on the go, using every means she could contrive to make the Word of God to race ahead and reach every category of people, and to invite other young people to share the joy of the Pauline vocation. She revealed the same apostolic passion when she was sent to the Reggio Calabria book center and, in 2015, to the large, centrally located FSP apostolic center in Palermo. In 2017, Sr. Teresa was asked to take charge of the new branch of the Palermon book center that had been opened in a more accessible part of the city. Having obtained a certificate from an advanced training course she had taken in bookstore management, she coordinated the apostolic center using up-to-date methods.

But the ways of the Lord are inscrutable and last May he called our sister to a far more challenging mission: that of the cross and self-offering. Diagnosed with a very aggressive form of brain cancer, Sr. Teresa underwent a series of medical tests that culminated in surgery at Gemelli Hospital and that in these last months made it necessary for her to undergo radiation and chemotherapy.

Sr. Teresa lived this painful, "desert stage" of her life in the FSP Provincial House in Rome and spent her last days in the infirmary of the Divine Providence community. She never stopped hoping for healing and fought for it to the very end, placing herself with great trust in the hands of her doctors and clinging day and night to a small wooden crucifix that had become her strength and the symbol of her intense and very concrete identification with the Lord in his passion. Her conversations with him were spontaneous and incessant. "Jesus, help me," she begged him. "Come on, you can do it!" And as we begin our Lenten journey, the Divine Master answered her plea by calling her to heaven, where she now basks in the radiant light of salvation and participates in spousal intimacy with her Lord in the kingdom of the saints. Affectionately,

Rome, 26 February 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan