

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

At 6:30 p.m. today, our merciful God visited the St. Raphael wing of the Albano community, Italy, to welcome into the joy of his kingdom, our sister:

USAI BONARIA – SR. PIERANGELA
born in Assemini (Cagliari), Italy, on 29 June 1941.

From her Sardinian homeland, Sr. Pierangela had inherited resourcefulness, courage, elegance, love of family and home, and loyalty to duty. These were the characteristics she manifested even during the illness that made it necessary for her to live for more than five years in the Albano community. She often said how much she longed leave the hospital grounds just to meet people in the stores.... But she knew this was not possible in her precarious state of health so she never insisted but instead quietly allowed her caregivers take care of her needs. Her desire to be autonomous and to make decisions for herself was very strong, but this compulsion softened in recent times, making her more compliant, docile, serene and also more beautiful by the day!

She entered the Congregation in the house in Cagliari on 11 July 1957. The following year she was sent to Rome for her initial formation and novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 30 1962. Following this, she was assigned to the Bari community, where she spread the Word of God to schools, offices and families. In preparation for her perpetual profession, she wrote to the Superior General:

“With the grace of God, I hope to achieve the holiness my vocation requires. I am aware of my weaknesses and frailties, but even though ‘by myself I can do nothing,’ it is also true that ‘with God I can do all things.’ I want to be faithful to him and to my commitments up to the very end!”

After her perpetual profession in Rome on 30 June 1967, Sr. Pierangela continued her itinerant apostolate in the dioceses of Perugia, St. Benedict and Crotona. She recalled with pleasure the many book deposits from which she restocked in order to visit parishes, schools and institutes, and her efforts to contact every family so as to leave at least a small “seed” of the Word of God in each home.

She was later assigned to the book center apostolate in the communities of Cagliari, Rimini, Arezzo, Perugia and Verona. Kind by nature, she enjoyed connecting with people and never failed to offer them a word of faith and hope. In the early 1990s, she began to manifest the first symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS). The disease caused her severe pain and obliged her to spend a lot of time resting. She visited various hospitals in Verona and Udine, trying to find suitable treatment for the disease, without neglecting the communities in which she lived. In each of these, she willingly took on the responsibility of many useful household duties.

In 2018, Sr. Pierangela was transferred to Albano in order to receive the support and care she needed as a result of the MS and other serious illnesses that afflicted her, including Parkinson’s disease and various bone, heart, and intestinal conditions. She gladly participated in the festivities and times of prayer organized by the community and took an interest in the other sick sisters, often lingering in their rooms for friendly chats and willingly lending a hand with mending and other simple sewing work. Sr. Pierangela was a distinctive “presence” in the Albano community, where she was immediately recognizable thanks to her halo of pure white hair and her dignified and elegant bearing.

Over the past two months, her clinical situation gradually worsened. Despite the severity of her health problems, her expression remained serene and she radiated peace. And today, the “favorable time of salvation” arrived, opening the gates of the kingdom of heaven to her and making it possible for her to savor the abundant riches of God’s mystery and mercy. Affectionately,

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 27 February 2023