

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

At 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, our good Father visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

LA CARRUBBA SR. GRAZIA
born in Canicattì (Agrigento), Italy, on 21 April 1931.

Sr. Grazia was a lovable sister who expressed in her daily life the meaning of her name, *Grazia*. In fact, her life was truly a grace, a gift to the Congregation and to the many sisters with whom she came in contact in Italy, Spain and Mexico. Looking back on her vocation, she wrote: “My dear Jesus, I know that you never abandon me at any time and I trust you.... I remember that when you called me to the religious life, at first I regretted having to leave my work in the Catholic Action Movement to follow that call. Nevertheless, you enabled me to take that step with joy and I want to maintain that joyful attitude up to the end of my life, never doubting even for an instant your loving plan for me.”

She entered the Congregation with enthusiasm and generosity in the house of Rome on 18 Nov. 1951, after having obtained her high school diploma. She made her first profession in Rome on 19 March 1954. It was a deeply moving experience and she wrote: “Primo Maestro gave us his best wishes and said: ‘You will remember this day in a special way at the point of death, when you are about to pass into eternity and make your final, eternal profession. Then the priest will not only say to you, ‘You will receive the hundredfold and possess eternal life,’ but in some way he will introduce you into it. At that point, you will remember that in life you received a hundredfold of graces from the Lord and you will bless him for that. Then you will make your eternal profession in heaven.”

During the time of her temporary vows, Sr. Grazia studied theology, while at the same time assisting Sr. Concettina Borgogno in the formation of the aspirants—a service she carried out with kindness and *grace*. After her perpetual profession in 1959, she was sent to Spain to devote herself anew to the formation apostolate, to which she dedicated herself for eight consecutive years. In 1967, a new surprise awaited her: she was transferred to Mexico. On that occasion, she prayed: “Jesus help me to live well this new act of obedience. Blessed Mother Mary, please make my self-donation total and serene.” Sr. Grazia fit into her new cultural environment without difficulty and in the following years she held the offices of formator, superior of the Monterrey community and, for six years, the role of provincial superior.

In 1978 she returned to Spain to continue her self-offering in the communities of Barcelona and Madrid as local superior and member of the book center staff. She also served for three terms as delegation councilor. In 1994, Sr. Grazia returned permanently to Italy to be near her seriously ill mother. In view of this, she was sent to the communities of Messina and Salerno, where she served as local superior in the latter community for six years. After a short assignment to the Capodimonte community in Naples, she was transferred to Palermo in 2007, where she was asked to work at the book center’s information desk. It gave her great joy to be able to perform small jobs in the book center, including making rosaries, the proceeds of which she sent to the missions. From 2016-2021, while already ill herself, Sr. Grazia found it necessary to assist her brother, who was not self-sufficient— a great work of charity that she carried out with her habitual goodness and *grace* until his death.

For the past year, she was a member of the James Alberione community, Albano, where she continued to edify the sisters and her caregivers with her kindness, recollection and ceaseless gratitude, saying that her sole desire was “to walk toward heaven with serenity, even in difficulties.” The Lord called her to her “final profession in heaven” unexpectedly, leaving her only enough time to send a last kiss to her caregivers. We are sure that her guardian angel, with whom she had a confidential relationship, was certainly at her side as she took that final step because she had often prayed: “I often feel your presence. Never leave me alone. Help me to always correspond to God’s will wholeheartedly and peacefully.” Affectionately,

Rome, 10 March 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan