

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



At 11 a.m. today, the Risen Lord visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call home to heaven our sister:

SEGANFREDDO SR. CECILIA
born in Mure di Molvena (Vicenza), Italy, on 1 September 1931.

Sr. Cecilia had always been deeply impressed by the Founder's words, "Death is a door that allows us to see what lies beyond our earthly vision." And she wrote with ardent longing, "My soul yearns for this vision of the Master!" because the Divine Master was truly the center, the light, that illuminated and gave meaning to her whole life. She would say with deep emotion: "I learned to know and love Jesus Master, to go beyond my limited vision and live the essentials in the school of Blessed James Alberione and Pauline priests like Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, Fr. Roatta and Fr. Lamera...as well as in the school of Venerable Thecla Merlo and my formation mistresses." She said with complete conviction: "The light of the Divine Master's Word has always illuminated my path." It was a path filled with grace and blessings, a life in which she was always striving to do her best so as to glimpse what *lay beyond*...

Sister Cecilia entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 20 May 1950, paving the way for her younger sister, Sr. M. Atanasia, who would follow in her footsteps three years later. While at home, Cecilia had already obtained a teacher's degree and was thus able to devote herself to the study of philosophy and theology starting from her earliest years in formation. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1953. In 1955, she was sent to Montreal, Canada, to guide the formation of the first young women who were launching out on the Pauline life in that country. In 1962 she was appointed superior of the Toronto community and two years later she was made Delegation Superior. It was a particularly favorable time for our Canadian Delegation and our sisters there were focused on fulfilling the priorities entrusted to them by the Founder on one of his visits, namely: to open a novitiate, to begin a local edition of *Way, Truth and Life* magazine, to launch the film apostolate and to build a new house.

In 1971, Sr. Cecilia was called to the Generalate in Rome to participate in the Congregation's preparations for its Special Chapter. At the end of that important event, she was appointed Delegation Superior of our FSP communities in France. In 1975, she was asked to take on a new responsibility: service in the Vatican dicasteries while living in the Generalate community. And in 1980, after preparing a group of juniors for perpetual profession and taking time out for a year of updating, a new surprise awaited her: she was sent to the Congo as a missionary. Sr. Cecilia spent ten years of generous service as local superior in the communities of Lubumbashi and Kinshasa, after which she was appointed delegation councilor in charge of Pauline publishing. During this time, she gave strong impetus to the production of texts for the formation of pastoral agents and various categories of people, especially children. She was especially concerned about preparing simple aids to diffuse the Word of God across the immense distances of Canada. The words of Fr. Alberione had taken deep root in her and gave wings to her heart: "Blessed are you," he said to the FSPs, "if you have dedicated your whole being to spreading the Gospel."

In 1996, Sr. Cecilia returned to Italy where another assignment awaited her and, as usual, she devoted all her energy to it: that of accompanying and animating the Pauline Cooperators in the community of Naples Capodimonte. It was a very rich experience in which she did her best to transmit to the laity a deep love for our Pauline spirituality, together with all the apostolic passion that throbbed in her heart. In this service too, Sr. Cecilia revealed her ability to establish warm relationships with

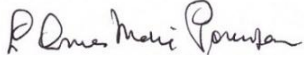
people of all walks of life. In fact, she emphasized that the most beautiful books she had ever read were the people she met while carrying out the Pauline apostolate.

However, a severe form of myasthenia (a neuromuscular disease that progressively weakens the skeletal muscles) began to undermine her health, and in 2016 it was necessary to transfer her to the James Alberione community, Albano, so as to provide her with the care she needed. She wrote: “The light of the Word continues to illuminate my path, even in my most uncertain and tiring moments. Whenever I feel useless, misunderstood and unable to carry out the Pauline mission, the Divine Master is always there, ready to embrace and sustain me. There is no doubt in my mind that he dwells within me....”

She had once said that the Gospel passage of the Risen Lord’s meeting with Mary Magdalene (Jn. 20:16) encapsulates the essentials of her life, which was entirely focused on dwelling in Jesus Master, following in his footsteps and proclaiming him. And with great tenderness, the Risen Lord allowed her to caress his feet, to recognize him as the Living One and to lovingly respond to him precisely today, in the brilliant light of the Easter sun. Truly, for Sr. Cecilia, this is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice with her!

Affectionately,

Rome, 13 April 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan