

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

Tonight, as our celebrations for the Feast of the Ascension and World Communications Day drew to an end, we were informed that at 8:30 p.m. the Lord visited our James Alberione community of Albano, Italy, to call to live with him for all eternity, our sister:

FUNARI ASSUNTA – Sr M. INNOCENZA
born in San Pellegrino (Perugia), Italy, on 7 April 1933.

Sr. M. Innocenza was a very hard-working sister who lived quietly among us, spreading her deep love for the Pauline mission to everyone around her and channeling all her strength into responding generously to the gift of her vocation. On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee of religious consecration in 2006, she said with deep emotion and gratitude that God the Father had always held her in his arms with great love, enabling her to offer him the gift of her entire being and sustaining her with his presence in all the circumstances of life.

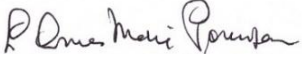
She entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 17 September 1952. After a time of formation, during which she had the opportunity to learn the book-binding process and also carry out the mission of diffusion in La Spezia, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession, on 19 March 1956.

As a young professed, she was sent to the community of Perugia, where she disseminated the Gospel and other formative texts to the schools, families, and communities scattered in the region of Umbria. She then participated in a time of formation in Rome in preparation for her perpetual vows, which she made on the feast of St. Joseph in 1961. Afterward, in Ravenna, she continued the mission of diffusion, which she deeply loved, but health issues made it necessary for her to be admitted to the Albano community for a time of rest and care. After she recovered, she was assigned to the small Albano book center, where she worked for about 7 years. There, she carried out her responsibilities with kindness and love, interacting with the Center's visitors with a simplicity and spontaneity that kindled hearts, soothed wounds, and helped to illuminate the path of those seeking the Truth—precisely the type of communication Pope Francis encourages Christians to put into practice today. Later, in Siena and then again in Perugia, Sr. M. Innocenza dedicated herself with humility and faith to the itinerant apostolate once more, spreading seeds of hope to everyone she met.

In 1977 she accepted the request to serve as superior of the Terni community, but three years later she joyfully resumed the book center apostolate in the houses of Tortona, Viterbo, Aquila, Potenza, Ariccia-Galloro, Albano and Rome, successively. Her gentle character and goodness touched the hearts of the people she sought to evangelize. Without realizing it, she put into concrete action the open-hearted and fraternal communication that Pope Francis continues to recommend so insistently to every follower of Christ. In 2005, Sr. M. Innocenza was asked to take over reception desk services in the large Divine Providence community in Rome—a work she carried out with punctuality, precision and great cordiality for the next nine years.

In 2014, she was transferred to the James Alberione community of Albano, where she carried out various duties in an environment that also enabled her receive assistance for her own health issues, especially the lung problems that made it very hard for her to breathe. At this point in her life, there was only one thing she wanted—heaven! She asked the Lord for this grace insistently, yearning to bask in the presence of God for all eternity. And our good Father answered her petition today, the combined Feasts of the Ascension and World Communications Day, in this month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. We rejoice that our sister now shares in the heritage of the saints forever!

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 21 May 2023