

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



Dearest Sisters,

Last night, God, our merciful Father, visited the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, Italy, at 9:40 p.m., to call to himself our sister:

**DAL MAGRO – SR. ANNA PIA**  
**born in Caldiero (Verona), Italy, on 26 August 1936.**

Sr. Anna Pia was a simple, good, kind and caring person, with a sociable and docile nature, who enriched the Congregation and the Church with her great desire for holiness and her longing to respond to her Pauline vocation always more completely.

She entered the Congregation in Alba, Italy, on 19 January 1955. After a time of formation, in which she learned the bookbinding apostolate and also carried out the mission of diffusion in Pavia, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. The meditations of Blessed James Alberione, who guided the course of spiritual exercises in preparation for that decisive moment, set the tone of her entire Pauline journey, especially his frequent reminders to live in *union*: that is, to unite one's mind, heart and life to Jesus. We are sure that Sr. Anna Pia's heart vibrated with joy when the Founder stood before the retreatants and said: "What higher level can a person reach in life than to be 'lost' in Jesus Christ? When this happens, then wherever we go, we take Jesus with us and the good we do is multiplied..." (FSP59, p. 280).

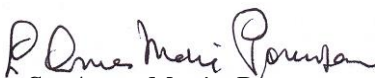
Yearning to take Jesus everywhere, she returned to Pavia as a young professed sister, where she poured all her energy into spreading the Gospel and other formative texts to the schools, families, and communities of that diocese. Afterward, she participated in a period of formation in Rome in preparation for her perpetual profession, which she made in 1964, on the solemnity of St. Paul the Apostle. In her various letters requesting permission to renew her vows, her love for the Congregation and its mission shines forth clearly, along with her desire to correct her personal defects so as to respond wholeheartedly to the Master's call.

After her perpetual profession, Sr. Anna Pia carried out the stockroom apostolate in Rome for about fifteen years, followed by a time of spiritual and charismatic renewal in Alba. The next chapter of her life consisted of book center service in Reggio Calabria, Terni, Udine, and Brescia, where she continued to live the Pauline mission with serenity, gentleness and gratuitousness.

In 1994, Sr. Anna Pia offered the Lord a new act of obedience by accepting a transfer to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano, which had been established to meet the needs of the sick and elderly sisters of our Italian Province. In that context, she joyfully carried out whatever services were asked of her, especially work at the community's information desk and in the sacristy. No words of blame or criticism ever came out of her mouth; she was truly a person filled with benevolence toward everyone. She had a special concern for the FSPs who were patients at Queen of Apostles Hospital, right next door to her community. She visited them regularly to refresh their bedlinens and provide them with a "window" outside the hospital environment through her cheerful and encouraging personality. Even in her later years, after she developed Alzheimer's disease, she never neglected her daily, uplifting visits to the neediest members of her community. Her days were always filled with prolonged prayer and intimate dialogue with her Lord and Master.

Our sister's call to eternal life did not come suddenly. Her physical situation gradually deteriorated but she died quietly and serenely. May our good Father now bless her with fullness of life as she is joyfully welcomed into the ever-growing Pauline Family in heaven. Affectionately,

Rome, 21 July 2023

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan