

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

At 11:15 a.m. today, the Lord visited the infirmary wing of our community of Alba, Italy, to invite to the wedding banquet of the Lamb of God our sister:

**VECCHIATO SR. LUCIA RITA**  
**born in Mirano (Venice), Italy on 27 April 1938.**

As usual, Sr. Rita had eaten breakfast and received Jesus into her heart, revealing no sign that her call to eternal life was imminent. But she unexpectedly suffered a pulmonary embolism, took two deep breaths, and very simply surrendered her life into the hands of the Father. Thus the profound yearning she had manifested on the occasion of her perpetual profession came to fruition: “I trust in the One who has called me,” she had written, “and I am sure that if I am docile and generous to the invitations of his love, I will become an effective instrument in helping to spread his kingdom.”

She entered the Congregation in the community of Verona on 25 March 1961, the Feast of the Annunciation. Several months later, she was sent to Alba for a time of initial formation in the Pauline charism and the practical exercise of the technical apostolate. She lived a period of apostolic experience in Vercelli and then made her novitiate in Milan, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1964. Fr. Alberione had dedicated that particular year to a deeper reflection on our Pauline piety and it was also the unforgettable year of the death of our beloved M. Thecla—two major events that certainly resonated with particular power in Sr. Rita’s good and generous heart.

During the years of her temporary profession, Sr. Rita spent most of her time carrying out the apostolate of itinerant diffusion of the Word of God in the dioceses of Novara, Ravenna, Milan, Trent and Verona. Afterward, in Udine, she was assigned to the local St. Paul Film Agency, where she learned to love the film apostolate. Shy and rather quiet by nature, she nevertheless became very talkative and persuasive in proposing films to parish priests, teachers, and directors of institutes. She firmly believed in the possibilities of evangelization through the language and content of films, recalling our Founder’s urging to “blaze new trails” for the Gospel. Sr. Rita felt responsible for blazing a trail for films, in order that this audiovisual language could contribute to the development of human and Christian values, especially among young people.

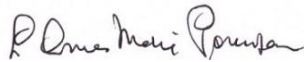
She made her perpetual profession on 30 June 1969 and, following this, had the chance to deepen her cultural formation in Verona. Subsequently, she continued to work in the St. Paul Film Agencies in Brescia, Reggio Emilia and Bologna, renting films to parishes, families and institutes. In Bologna and Ferrara, she worked with great competence in the book center apostolate before having to ask for a long period of absence from the Congregation (eight years), to care for her seriously ill mother. These were not easy years for her, but she lived them in serene self-surrender to the will of God. When she returned to the Institute in 2008, she was sent to Trieste and later to Udine, Livorno and Lodi, where she helped out with household services, especially in the kitchen and with wardrobe maintenance.

In 2014, when she began to exhibit the first signs of Parkinson’s disease, she was transferred to the large Alba community so as to receive the care she needed. She worked at the community’s information desk, but after about 5 years it was necessary to move her to the infirmary wing of the house, due to the relentless progression of her malady. In the last stage of her life, she would sit at the computer when she felt strong enough, so as to listen to some meditations and also keep abreast of what was happening in the Church and world.

The Lord called our sister to himself without forewarning, but we are sure that his coming was a visit filled with light. We trust that on this occasion too, Jesus Master repeated to her the words that had always given her strength, courage, hope and peace: “Do not be afraid. I am with you.”

Affectionately,

Rome, 24 July 2023

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan