

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,

At 10:00 p.m. last night, our good Father visited our Divine Providence community, Rome, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

**DE LEUCIO GILDA – SR. MARIA GISELDA  
born in Terranova (Benevento), Italy, on 26 May 1923.**

Called to heaven at the age of 100, Sr. M. Giselda had lived her life to the full, weaving the events of her daily routine into it like the skilled seamstress she was, using the “loom” prepared for her by the Lord, as the sisters sang at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

She entered the Congregation in Rome on 4 November 1946. Even though she had only completed elementary school, she was filled with the wisdom of the meek and the pure of heart. On her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession in 2009, she wrote to the Superior General, “I thank the Lord for having granted me so many years spent for his glory in the Pauline apostolate. As far as possible and with his help, I want to continue to offer my entire being to him for whatever time more he grants me here on earth.”

Sr. Giselda made her initial formation and novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her Pauline journey with her first profession on 19 March 1949. Afterward, she carried out itinerant dissemination of the Word of God to the families and communities of Sassari, but in 1951 it was necessary to relocate her to Albano so that she could receive suitable care for a serious illness she had developed. After her recovery, she was asked to serve as cook in the communities of Milan, Perugia, and Ascoli Piceno successively—an apostolate she fulfilled with a spirit of great love and availability.

She was superior of the Gorizia community from 1968-1971. During this time, Italy’s provincial superior wrote to all the sisters, asking them if they had any personal desires for the future. Sr. Giselda wrote back: “I have no special yearnings. When I became a nun, I placed myself in the hands of my superiors for the greater glory of God. My only desire is that we might have more members in this house so that we can devote ourselves more to ‘propaganda.’ Our city is right on the Italian border and many people are expecting a lot of good from us....”

Sr. Giselda’s daily life and apostolate were interrupted by a second period of illness and recovery in the Albano community, after which she was transferred to Grottaferrata and later to Benevento, where she worked in the kitchen, sacristy and sewing room. For over fifteen years she devoted herself with great apostolic passion to service in our Campobasso book center. From 1992 until two days ago, she was a member of the Naples Capodimonte community, where she put the finishing touches on her long life. The sisters remember her as an exemplary person, always the first to volunteer for anything and always prompt to dedicate herself to others, welcoming every sacrifice with a smile on her lips.

She was an accomplished seamstress, which is one of the reasons why, when she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the sisters dedicated an ode-prayer of thanksgiving to God for Sr. Giselda’s life, including a passage extolling her talent with needle and thread: “May God, who embroidered intricate patterns of love in your life, give us your courage and the intrepid step of dreamers. You are part of the root of your natural family and also of the Pauline Family. You lived almost 75 years of religious consecration to the full, weaving it with the small threads of daily life on the loom that God prepared and built for you....”

This past June, Sr. Giselda fell and underwent leg surgery in Naples. The operation was successful but she had some difficulties with rehabilitation and so, last Monday, she was transferred to our Divine Providence community in Via Antonio Pio, Rome. She was happy to be close to the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, whom she loved dearly. Last night, just as the chimes of the Shrine pealed the *Hail Mary*, Sr. Giselda breathed her last, surrendering her long and beautiful life into the hands of God the Father, through the mediation of our tender Mother Mary, the Gate of Heaven. Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan'.

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 2 August 2023