

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 4 a.m. this morning, the feast of the Apostle St. Bartholomew, the Lord visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call to sing the glory of God forever, our sister:

PETIX DOMENICA – SR. MARIA VINCENZINA
born in Serradifalco (Caltanissetta), Italy, on 27 August 1932.

Sr. Vincenzina was a sunny-tempered person who “spoke” first of all through her bright, almost brilliant, gaze. Her clear eyes reflected her joy at belonging to the Lord and her desire to communicate the beauty of the life that throbbed within her. Sr. Vincenzina was truly a great apostle who illuminated the FSP book centers scattered around Italy with her simplicity, kindness, enthusiasm, spirit of service and tremendous love.

She entered our Congregation in the Caltanissetta community on 10 July 1950. A few months later, she was sent to Rome to begin her formation. She carried out itinerant diffusion of the Word of God in Taranto and then returned to Rome for her novitiate, which she concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1954. Immediately afterward, she began a long itinerary of service in our book centers. It was in this apostolic context that she prepared for her perpetual profession, which she made in the house of Messina on the Feast of St. Paul, 1960.

For more than sixty years, Sr. Vincenzina’s life was characterized by book center activities. These FSP Centers were her “churches,” the places from which she proclaimed the Gospel and met people from all walks of life. Naples, Messina, Catanzaro, Benevento, Agrigento, Pavia, Grosseto, Palermo, Cagliari, Perugia, and then Palermo again, were the places that bore witness to her self-offering in the apostolate, and were also the contexts of her spiritual maturation as her desire to *become Jesus in order to communicate him* steadily grew.


Since she had never completed any academic studies beyond the elementary level, in 1969 she timidly expressed her desire to take the classes necessary to obtain a high school diploma. But in the years preceding this, she had not been idle. She had always taken an active part in the numerous conferences that were held in our Pauline centers, savoring the input and doing everything possible to expand her knowledge of the various currents of thought, authors and content that stocked the book center shelves. She spurred on the younger sisters, encouraged them, bolstered their confidence, and acquainted them with the secrets of a Pauline book center—secrets that she herself had learned from the Founder’s lips. In our FSP book centers, her contact with the public took on the aspect of formation. Men and women religious, lay people, and especially seminarians and young priests, all turned to her for advice about what to purchase, confident in her ability to provide them with sure guidance. A very sociable and open-minded person, Sr. Vincenzina yearned to make herself “all to all.” With this in mind, at one point she revealed to her superiors her longing to go to Africa as a missionary, but unfortunately this would remain an unrealized dream.

About ten years ago, while in Palermo, Sr. Vincenzina was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Reluctantly, she had to leave the book center environment for communities better adapted to her state of health. She was first assigned to the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, and later, as her illness progressed, to the nearby Thecla Merlo and then James Alberione communities. In the last period of her life, she could no longer swallow or drink and had to struggle to breathe, but her ever-bright gaze was a real pole of attraction for her caregivers because everything in her spoke of God.

Today, in silence, God’s final call arrived. Like the apostle Bartholomew, Sr. Vincenzina was invited to see with her own eyes the face of the Master who many years ago had attracted her and drawn her to himself, and to wholeheartedly renew her profession of faith in the Son of God, our risen Lord.

Affectionately,

Rome, 24 August 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan