

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

At 6:00 p.m. today, God our merciful Father visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

BORDIGNON MARIA – SR. MARIA FLAVIA
born in Altvole (Treviso), Italy, on 8 February 1936.

Over the past 15 years, the people in the Albano area had come to know and appreciate this Daughter of St. Paul who, by car or preferably on foot, covered daily and with agility several kilometers to run the many errands necessary to maintain our long-term assistance community in the zone, or else to enjoy the beauties of nature. Her long walks from Albano to Ariccia or Genzano must have certainly reminded her of the many steps she had taken in the diffusion apostolate, which she had carried out with great passion for more than 25 years in the picturesque valleys of Italy's Trent region.

This great "walker of God" entered our Congregation in the house in Rome on 2 July 1954. She concluded her time of initial formation, followed by her novitiate, on 30 June 1958, making her first profession in the Queen of Apostles Shrine in Rome—an offering, gift and consecration that marked her entire life. As a young professed, Sr. Flavia was assigned to the mission of itinerant outreach in the diocese of Taranto and the Apulian region. After her perpetual profession, made on the Feast of St. Paul in 1963, she continued her itinerant apostolate in Nuoro and Cagliari, bringing the Word of God with kindness and simplicity to families, schools and businesses. She also creatively organized book exhibitions, Gospel Weeks and Marian Days.

In Grosseto and Turin, she worked in our St. Paul Film Agencies, where she had the chance to experience how effective the cinema is as a tool for evangelization. She then spent more than 25 years in Trent and Bolzano, first managing the SPF Agency there, then working in the book center, and later making apostolic visits to the holiday resorts in the beautiful valleys of Trent. The mountain air gave wings to her feet and filled her with a yearning to reach everyone with a word of faith and hope through the Pauline mission.

On her 60th anniversary of profession, thinking back on her vocation and the wealth of her experiences, Sr. Flavia wrote with deep humility, "With joy I renew my *yes* to God, even though my gift of myself to him is very small. I place everything in the hands of the Divine Master. With his grace, I hope to live more and more in his love...." She was very grateful to the Congregation for the opportunity she had been given to spend a few years taking care of her critically ill mother.

In 2006, Sr. Flavia was transferred to the James Alberione community of Albano, where she spent all her time and energy generously running errands, helping at the information desk, and carrying out the countless other services needed by a large community. Lively and dynamic, she was especially involved in filling out, with the utmost care, precision and meticulousness, the medical paperwork required of the sisters by the local health care office. Always on the go, perhaps the words of the "Alberionian beatitudes" that had made such an impact on her in her youth, often resounded in her heart: "Blessed are the steps of those who evangelize the good, of those who evangelize peace... Blessed are the walkers of God... Blessed are the postmistresses of Jesus who bring the Gospel of love to every family...."

A few weeks ago, Sr. Flavia suffered a pulmonary embolism and cerebral ischemia (impaired blood flow to the brain). After a brief time as a patient in Queen of Apostles Hospital, she returned to her community but her condition deteriorated steadily and by the end of her life she was no longer able to speak or communicate. She was now ready to sing her personal *Glory to God* and to joyfully walk the paths of heaven in communion with all those who had preceded her. Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan". The script is cursive and elegant.

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 18 September 2023