

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 3:45 p.m. today, a member of our community of Palermo, Italy, passed from this world into the arms of God our merciful Father:

FARINI ANTONINA – SR. MARIA JOSEPH
born in Favara (Agrigento), Italy, on 8 October 1940

Sr. M. Joseph was a joyful, creative sister, who always moved forward boldly along the paths of the Pauline mission, continually dreaming of new ways to make the Gospel race ahead and reach everyone, like the Apostle Paul. In preparation for the Congregation's 11th General Chapter, she expressed the appeals burning in her heart in this way: "To seek new channels of diffusion in inhabiting the Web...to emerge from our customary apostolic boundaries so as to manifest a special sensitivity toward families...to let the prophetic boldness of Paul fill and inspire us..." We can say with conviction that throughout her life Sr. M. Joseph poured all her energy into realizing the dreams that accompanied her journey as an apostle of the Word.

She entered the Congregation in the house in Agrigento, Italy, on 8 September 1957, and a few months later she was sent to Rome for a time of initial formation. She lived a period of apostolic experience in Alexandria and was then admitted to the novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1962. For nearly ten years, she perfected her technical skills in the FSP bindery in Rome. On 30 June 1967, she made her perpetual vows in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary there.

In Palermo, Agrigento and Trapani, Sr. M. Joseph dedicated herself with great zeal to the apostolate of itinerant diffusion. In 1979, while working in the audiovisual department, she obtained a diploma in Rome from a Women's Technical High School and then attended SPICS (Pauline Studies in Social Communication). Afterward, she was assigned to the community of Reggio Emilia where she visited parishes, schools and institutes, making her animation encounters more lively through the use of films and audiovisual aids that she prepared with love and competence.

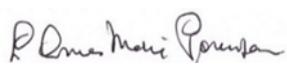
In Messina, Reggio Calabria, Verona, Palermo, Perugia, Agrigento, and Naples, she carried out the book center apostolate, always seeking ways to use the various instruments of communication to render the Pauline mission more effective. She took every opportunity to make the most of diocesan radio and TV stations for the presentation of books and other catechetical material or to inform her audiences about what was happening in the Church. On the occasion of the Congregation's 11th General Chapter, she wrote: "We should not have any fears, timidity, doubts or uncertainties about the vocation God has given us. Instead, we should have great confidence in our mission." This was typical of the life of Sr. M. Joseph, who launched herself enthusiastically into new initiatives and used every tool that technology placed at her disposition to do good. She even prepared and sent to the Superior General a script for a film on St. Paul entitled, "Paul: an itinerant missionary who went beyond all borders."

We recall the last years of this dear sister's life during which she was asked to serve as local superior in Reggio Calabria and then in the Castro Pretorio community in Rome. Both communities were preparing in different ways for closure and in both cases Sr. M. Joseph was able to accompany the sisters in those difficult moments with wisdom and love. Her role was particularly demanding in the Castro community, where everything had to be packed up and stored so that the house could be renovated.

But by then the time was approaching for her to "haul in her sails." In April 2022, she underwent surgery for colon cancer at Queen of Apostles Hospital. She recovered from the operation but unfortunately the cancer had already spread to other vital organs. Afterward, she spent several months in Palermo at the bedside of her sister, an Annunciationist who died a few months ago, and it was from this community that the Lord called Sr. M. Joseph to himself. Now that she too is with God, may she intercede for us, asking that we may imitate her in reaching out to everyone to communicate the Gospel of salvation with the fire of God in our hearts, his words on our lips and prophecy in our gaze (Paul VI).

Affectionately,

Rome, 10 October 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan