

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 4:00 a.m. this morning, the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, our divine Bridegroom visited the Emergency Room of Michele and Pietro Ferrero Hospital in Verduno (Alba), Italy, to invite to his wedding feast in the kingdom of heaven our sister:

TRAPELLA SIDONIA – Sr. MARIA
born in Mesola (Ferrara), Italy, on 26 August 1927

When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of religious profession, Sr. Maria wrote to the Superior General with deep gratitude: “I thank the Lord with all my heart for granting me such a long life, despite my physical and spiritual frailties. Having reached this milestone, I make myself useful in the community only in small things, but I do everything with love and out of love.” Her words captured the essence of her life, characterized by simplicity and smallness, and filled above all with her strong faith and big heart.


Sr. Maria entered the Congregation in the house in Alba on 29 October 1949. After about a year of initial formation, she was sent to Bologna for a period of apostolic experience, during which she had the joy of bringing the Gospel to many families, schools, and institutes. At the end of her year of novitiate, she made her first profession on 19 March 1952 in the festive atmosphere surrounding the inauguration of the crypt of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary in Rome. Afterward, she spent the next 15 years (excluding her time of preparation for perpetual profession), carrying out itinerant outreach, “Feasts of the Gospel and of the Good Press,” and “Marian Weeks” in the communities of Cremona, Reggio Emilia, Rovigo, and Lecce. She recalled with emotion the words of Maestra Thecla, who urged the sisters to be “like birds on a branch—ready to fly off at its slightest movement.” M. Thecla also said: “Be simple. Preserve your native spirit, which means being quick-witted and active.... Few words and many deeds, in keeping with the example of the Divine Master and our Father St. Paul” (cf. VPC, p. 252). Sr. Maria’s apostolic passion was contagious and several young women, attracted by her example, also entered the Congregation.

In 1967, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency in Catanzaro and later to the same Agencies in Bologna and Livorno. She was always prompt to send films to the different parishes that ordered them, and as a skilled driver she was ever-willing to take the various groups of “propagandists” to apostolic assignments in different parts of the area.

Sr. Maria then devoted 25 years of Pauline life to the book center apostolate in Mantua, La Spezia, Arezzo, Biella and Savona. She had the ability to render the climate of the community very agreeable by means of her kindness, entertaining stories and ready wit. In 2003, she was asked to carry out household responsibilities in Pavia, where she also devoted herself to the sewing and embroidery work at which she excelled. She was transferred to Brescia in 2010 and over the next 10 years she enlivened the community with her good humor, attention to each person, simple and frugal lifestyle and precision. An expert in refectory and kitchen duties, she radiated to everyone her joy in her vocation, constantly looking for new ways to foster the art of living together tranquilly.

When she was relocated to Alba in 2021 for health reasons, Sr. Maria accepted the transfer serenely, confident that after a time of rest she would be able to return to her beloved Brescia. But this was not to be because she fell, broke her leg and had to be confined to a wheelchair. Even in this difficult situation, Sr. Maria’s patience, faith and high tolerance for pain were evident. A few days ago, her sufferings were aggravated by the onset of severe anemia. And today our sister was called to rejoice with all the saints in the house of the Lord forever. Affectionately,

Rome, 15 October 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan