

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

At 9:30 a.m. today, God our good Father visited the FSP infirmary of Alba, Italy, to call to himself in serenity and peace, our sister:

**TENANI ANTONIETTA – SR. MARIA ROSANNA
born in Corbola (Rovigo), Italy, on 26 October 1924.**

In 1971, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of her religious profession, Sr. Rosanna wrote to M. Ignazia Balla, Superior General of the Congregation: “The Lord has been very good to me. He has guided me and has always been close to me with his love, even in trials... I entrust myself to your generous prayers, asking him to help me correspond better and to a greater degree to the graces he wants to grant me.” Her brief words encapsulate the whole life of this dear sister who lived among us doing great good in a spirit of simplicity, generosity and kindness.

She belonged to a deeply Christian family from which she had learned a love of sacrifice and a readiness to come to the aid of those living in difficult economic conditions. She remembered her mother as a courageous person, always willing to donate a piece of bread and some wood to those most in need. Sr. Rosanna entered our Congregation in the house in Alba on 26 October 1942, the height of World War II. Because of the war, she underwent her initial formation and a period of apostolic experience in Rovigo. In 1945, she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1946. In her letter requesting permission to make her first vows, she expressed her deep joy at being able to give herself entirely to the Lord and thanked him for leading her to our Institute, saying joyfully that he could not have directed her steps better.

As a Junior professed sister, she carried out the “propaganda” apostolate in Sulmona and the book center apostolate in Ancona and Taranto. After her perpetual profession, made in Rome on 30 June 1951, she continued the Pauline mission in our diffusion centers of Cremona and Novara. A profoundly wise person, she was appointed superior of the Sondrio community in 1971 and then reappointed for a second term. After a brief period in the Genoa book center, she was once again appointed local superior in 1981, this time in Livorno. After this, she served two consecutive terms as superior in Biella. Everyone admired her warm and courteous way of relating to others, her gentleness and discretion, and her desire to create the conditions that would enable each sister to respond to the Pauline vocation in an optimal way. She later had the opportunity to take a break from her responsibilities by means of a brief and enjoyable apostolic interlude in Trieste and Savona, in contact with the people who flocked to our Pauline centers in search of books, which Sr. Rosanna always offered with words of encouragement and hope. Beginning in 1992, she served as superior in Campobasso for six consecutive years.

Sr. Rosanna spent the next fifteen years in the communities of La Spezia, Savona, and Livorno, where she worked primarily at the community reception desk and switchboard. In Livorno, she was also asked to carry out the service of vice superior, drawing the strength to spread serenity, communion and cordiality wherever she went thanks to her profound experience of God.

In 2016, she willingly accepted a transfer to Alba, considering her insertion into an assisted-living community to be a normal part of the aging process. She deeply appreciated having time for greater silence and prayer and took advantage of spiritual direction and the opportunity to deepen her intimacy with the Lord, who at times gave her moments of intense inner light. A few months ago, Sr. Rosanna was moved to the infirmary wing of the community due to her progressive physical decline caused in part by Parkinson’s disease. Completely lucid and alert to what was going on around her, she surrendered herself into the hands of the Father in silence and peace, radiating around her a deep sense of gratitude for the gift of her long and beautiful life, realized to the full through the joy of self-offering.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 15 November 2023