

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

At 6:30 p.m. today, the First Sunday of Advent, our heavenly Father visited our James Alberione community of Albano, Italy, to call to the glory of heaven our sister:

GALLESÌ SR. SILVIA
born in Modena, Italy on 20 June 1931.

Sr. Silvia was a sister who, throughout her Pauline life, dedicated herself to the Congregation with love and joy, especially in the administrative sphere, making the most of her keen intelligence, intuitive ability, and organizational skills so that the Pauline mission could be carried out in the most effective and appropriate ways. The severe deafness that afflicted her, and for which she experienced deep suffering, did not prevent her from developing a special ability to communicate and interact with others. Her ever-smiling face often hid her great commitment to not isolate herself from others but instead to remain a full participant in the life of the community and the apostolic sector in which she was inserted.

She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 25 June 1948. In 1950 she was sent to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1951. She spent some time in the Alba typography and our Alexandria book center, but her superiors quickly sensed her administrative aptitude accompanied by a strong sense of belonging to the Institute. And so in 1955, while still a temporary professed sister, she was transferred to the Congregation's administrative offices in Rome.

She made her perpetual vows on 19 March 1956, after which she continued her work in the administration department—an area fundamental to the Institute's mission and community life. Sr. Silvia strongly believed in the importance of the administrative services entrusted to her and committed herself wholeheartedly to carrying them out in the best way possible. To do this she needed professional training in the field, so she attended a course for business secretaries, but later, feeling an urgent need for preparation in the sphere of law, she enrolled in the faculty of law at Rome's State University "La Sapienza."

In keeping with the Pauline method, she studied and worked. While attending the university, she also served as bursar in what, from 1973 to 1976, constituted the Province of Rome. She was then made bursar of the Divine Providence and Divine Master communities in this city. In 1980, Sr. Silvia had the joy of obtaining a Doctor of Law degree but she did not make a big issue of this. Indeed, she was always ready to teach and share what she had learned with patience and clarity. Her sole goal was that the Congregation make progress in the Pauline mission.

In 2006, Sr. Silvia was appointed for a three-year term as bursar of the Italian Province's Italy-Switzerland circumscription. She spent this far-from-easy time searching for the most suitable ways to manage this complex economic-administrative dimension of the circumscription's apostolic activities. But Sr. Silvia did not lose heart: she continued to spread serenity and peace around her and did not burden the sisters with her worries and labors, which at times were very heavy. On the positive side, her heart was filled with great joy for the situation of her brother Piergiorgio who, after the loss of his wife, had entered the seminary and been ordained a priest at an advanced age.

Assigned to the Queen of Apostles community in Rome in 2009, Sr. Silvia served as its vice-superior while continuing her responsibilities in the bursar's office. In 2020, the onset of Alzheimer's disease made it necessary to transfer her to the James Alberione community, Albano. She expected and serenely accepted this new passage of God in her life because she had been gradually losing her ability to speak, but her bright eyes and smile conveyed her silent gratitude to everyone around her for their help and support. Today, hypertension combined with heart failure brought to fulfillment her profound communion with her Lord and Master. While thanking Sr. Silvia from the bottom of our hearts for her life and apostolate among us, we entrust her to the loving arms of God, our good Father.

Affectionately,

Rome, 3 December 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan