



Dearest Sisters,

At 3:50 p.m. today, God our merciful Father visited the reanimation ward of Piemonte Hospital in Messina, Italy, to welcome into his loving embrace our sister:

GIUZIO CARMELA – Sr. M. ALBERTA
born in Tito (Potenza), Italy, on 26 November 1941.

The Lord's call was sudden and completely unexpected. Last Friday, 1 March, Sr M. Alberta was on her way as usual to the nearby Cathedral for morning Mass when she was hit by a car. She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors immediately diagnosed her condition as extremely serious. Because of the substantial hemorrhages that she had suffered, she lived the last few days of her life in a comatose state, surrounded by the love and prayers of our sisters and the entire diocese of Messina. Although she was a person who did not like to be talked about, her death was reported in the local newspapers, bringing her situation to the attention of the people, many of whom knew her.

Sr M. Alberta was a simple, somewhat shy, good, silent, discreet and very hardworking sister who dedicated herself in serenity and peace to the Pauline mission, day after day.

She entered our Congregation in the house of Rome on 14 October 1961. After her initial formation and a time of apostolic experience in Agrigento, she made her novitiate in the Motherhouse in Alba, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1965. During her Juniorate, she carried out itinerant mission work, in particular dissemination of the very inexpensive *Thousand-Lire Bible*, which the Founder had priced so as to enable the sacred text to reach as many families as possible. In the communities of Milan, Rovigo and Campobasso, Sr. M. Alberta devoted herself to this intensive sowing of the Word of God, which often included driving her fellow-propagandists to their apostolic destinations. After her perpetual profession, made in Rome on 27 June 1971, Sr. Alberta continued to help the Gospel race ahead in the dioceses of Reggio Calabria, Naples, and Avellino.

In 1976 she began another apostolic activity that quickly became very dear to her: book center evangelization. In the FSP apostolic centers of Foggia, Naples, Caserta, Taranto, Arezzo, Aquila, Ancona, Agrigento, Livorno, Trieste, Perugia and Messina, she had had the opportunity to meet every category of people and to offer, in addition to her unflinching smile, books and audiovisuals as a response to the various life situations of the people or their special requests. She loved to recall that Blessed James Alberione had said that our book centers must be "pulpits" for the proclamation of the Gospel. In order to carry out her mission more competently, Sr. M. Alberta welcomed the chance to live a time of theological updating in 1984-85.

When the Congregation launched its Missionary Project in 1995, she expressed her readiness to leave as a missionary so as to strengthen our Pauline presence in Moscow, Russia. She wrote: "This desire has been growing in my heart for some time. If it is the will of God, then I consider it a great gift from him to me. The Pauline mission in the countries of Eastern Europe exerts a strong pull on me, but I am aware of my poverty, so I trust solely in the Lord and the Pauline charism. I am ready to accept any decision in this regard." Sr. M. Alberta never left Italy for the mission *ad gentes*, but we are sure she took the nations of Eastern Europe into her apostolic heart and prayers.

We thank this dear sister for her simplicity and goodness, her love for the Pauline mission and her commitment to witnessing to the Gospel of peace through her openness to others and welcome of diversity. She was truly one of the *golden threads* Fr. Alberione spoke about in one of his letters: a thread that, united to other Pauline "threads," forms a strong rope to further the spread of the Gospel.

Affectionately,

Rome, 4 March 2024

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan