



Dearest Sisters,

At 5:00 p.m. today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, our merciful Father once again visited the James Alberione community, Albano, Italy, to call to himself our sister:

**NALESSO TERESA – SR. MARIA TERESA
born in Dolo (Venice), Italy, on 14 February 1941.**

The life of this dear sister was marked by great physical and moral suffering. She entered our Congregation in the community of Rome on 14 Sept. 1961, saying that she immediately felt at home and was very happy to be in the place where the Lord wanted her. But she soon had to be transferred to Albano to be treated for tubercular meningitis. She began her novitiate in Rome at the conclusion of her formation period in 1966, and she made her first vows in our Institute on 30 June 1967. She then returned to Albano as a student and, after obtaining the relevant diplomas, served with her characteristic kindness as a registered nurse and assistant radiology technician in Queen of Apostles Hospital. Sr. M. Teresa recalled that particular period of her life in this way:

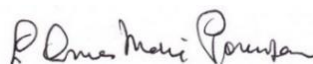
“At first, I was very happy with everything at Albano: my vocation, the apostolate, the community... But then came the difficult years in which a divergence of ideas emerged. At a certain point, a group of sisters believed they had to follow another path. Unfortunately, I let myself be influenced by them and abandoned my Pauline vocation. Deep down, I felt the anguish of making a choice about which I was unsure, but the conditioning was strong. As a consequence, I felt the burden, the suffering, of no longer being in tune with God’s call and of having lost the spiritual heritage I had received when I made my profession [as an FSP]. But in order to remain consistent with my choice, I remained for 13 years in the community of the Pious Union of the Handmaids of the Visitation. In 1992, I left that Institute with a powerful yearning to return to the Daughters of St. Paul and live the vocation to which I felt truly called. The thought of not being able to continue the life that God had intended for me caused me such suffering that I had no peace. I was working, earning a good salary and had the security of being able to continue my work for as long as I desired, with no age limit. With my salary, I was helping my family. I made a pact with the Lord, telling him, ‘I believe in your love and I want to give you everything....’ I quit my job even though I had no certainty about the future. I went through a very hard period in which I dedicated a lot of time to intense prayer and penance. Afterward, I wrote a letter to the superior general [of the FSPs]—an act that brought me great interior peace.”

On 27 Dec. 2004, at the conclusion of a prolonged discernment, Sr M. Teresa was readmitted to our Congregation. On 1 Nov. 2005, she made her first profession again in Alba, followed by her perpetual profession on 12 June 2007. She herself declared that this was one of the most beautiful moments of her life, confiding, “The fact that I am here, that I get up every morning and say ‘I am home’, gives me a profound and indescribable joy that intensifies every day.”

In Alba, Sr. M. Teresa poured herself wholeheartedly into her work in the community infirmary. She sensed the Lord was calling her to manifest with her smile and mission as a caregiver his immense love for these senior sisters who had dedicated their lives to him and were now making a very difficult and painful journey. But soon Sr. M. Teresa began to manifest the first signs of Alzheimer’s disease. In 2011 she was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano, to help in the infirmary and also receive the care she herself needed.

She was bedridden for about 4 years, and in recent times suffered a progressive enfeeblement that made even swallowing very difficult. After a few days in a comatose state, our good Father welcomed her into his abode of light and peace, where she will now rejoice forever. Affectionately,

Rome, 10 March 2024


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan.