



Dearest Sisters,

As the joy of the Easter season drew to a close on this Pentecost Sunday, at 1:40 p.m. in the community of Alba, the Risen Christ immersed our sister in the light of his glory:

**STRAZZARI MARIA Sr. MARIA CATERINA
born in Pianezze (Vicenza) on March 7, 1939**

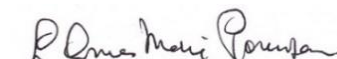
She belonged to a large family from Veneto that also gave to the Pauline Family her brother Valentino, a disciple of the Divine Master (that is, a Pauline brother), who died two years ago. Like her brother, Sr. M. Caterina was known for her kindness and gentleness, warmth and simplicity along with a natural shyness and a deep, constant sense of gratitude.

Sr. M. Caterina entered the congregation in Alba on December 8, 1956, and spent her first years learning the art of bookbinding in the very active bindery where the numerous groups of young women in formation took turns working. She made her novitiate in Rome, followed by her first profession on June 30, 1961. Soon afterwards she returned to the Motherhouse in Alba to devote herself generously for another fifteen years in the book bindery. On the occasion of her perpetual profession, which she made on June 30, 1966, she wrote to the Superior General: "I said my first 'yes' with fervor, and now I want to say it for the rest of my life with even greater fervor, because I understand how good the Lord has been in calling me to Himself, granting me all the help and grace I needed to respond. With the help of the Divine Master and the Queen—because on my own I can do nothing—I want to commit myself to living this vocation as fully as possible, so that I will have the strength to overcome whatever difficulties I may encounter. I am in His hands; may He do with me whatever He wills, confident that whatever He allows is for my greatest good. I am so happy, and I want to be even more so every day."

Sr. M. Caterina then had the opportunity to experience our mission in the St. Paul Film Agencies in Livorno, Bologna and Trent. She worked in the rental returns department, a silent apostolate that consisted in slowly examining, cleaning, and repairing the 16mm films that were returned each week after screenings in parishes and schools. It was a task she loved to enrich with self-offering and unceasing prayer, in the spirit of the Pauline Offertory. In Trent, Mantua and La Spezia, she devoted herself to serving in the kitchen. A deep sense of gratitude for the gift of the Pauline vocation accompanied her always. She wrote from Trent in 1986 to the Superior General, "Together we praise and thank the Lord for the many gifts He has granted me...they are great gifts, and I feel at times unable to correspond to them...but I trust that He does not leave me alone despite my weaknesses." Again in 2008 she confided, "I thank the Lord for calling me.... Day by day He prepares me for my encounter with Him."

In 2007 Sr. M. Caterina returned to Alba for health reasons where she continued to spend herself in various community services, especially helping in the laundry. Then, a few years ago, mainly due to repeated falls, she moved to the infirmary. She remained quite well, despite needing to use a wheelchair because of difficulty walking. Today, immediately after lunch, she experienced intense nausea and within minutes, the Lord opened to her the gates of the kingdom of heaven. May the embrace of the Trinity welcome Sr. M. Caterina into its boundless mystery, into the communion of love and the blessed vision of heaven.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, June 8, 2025
Solemnity of Pentecost