



Dearest Sisters,

The Giacomo Alberione community in Albano has received another visit from the Lord: at 4:00 p.m. yesterday our sister was suddenly called into the life that has no end:

MANCA MARIA Sr. MARIA ESTER
born in Pimentel (Cagliari) on November 8, 1938

Suffering knocked early at the door of this dear sister, who was left an orphan at a young age after both parents died of tuberculosis caused by chronic malaria. Sr. M. Esther entered the congregation in Rome on April 24, 1956. She first experienced the Pauline apostolate in Bologna before going to Rome for her novitiate which concluded with her first profession on June 30, 1960. During her juniorate she dedicated herself to spreading the Gospel in the Diocese of Siena, traveling with bags full of books across the picturesque Tuscan hills and learning to appreciate the beauty of the city and the places associated with St. Catherine, so rich in mysticism. She returned to Rome to prepare for her perpetual vows, which she professed on June 30, 1965.

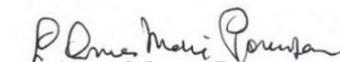
In Trento Sr. M. Ester embraced itinerant outreach once again and later had the opportunity to deepen her cultural formation in Verona. After a time in Massa, she joined the Edizioni Paoline outreach group in Arezzo and Florence. In this role she visited secular bookstores throughout the region to offer our publications. But Sr. M. Ester is remembered especially for her service in our book centers: for more than forty years she carried out this mission with passion, love, wholehearted dedication, and great enthusiasm. We remember her serving in the centers in Rovigo, Brescia, Udine, Salerno, Verona, Trento, and Lugano. She encouraged priests and seminarians, inviting them to broaden their cultural horizons, greeted lay people with a warm smile, and recognized the spark of a vocation in young people who sought, through reading, a light for their journey.

Sr. M. Ester certainly never lacked words to encourage, insist, and inspire others to read. She had learned from the Founder to regard the book center as a church, a pulpit, *a center for spreading the truth*, and she carried out this ministry with confidence, selflessness, and great joy. In Pordenone, she also served as superior for three years, from 1991 to 1994.

While Sr. M. Ester was coordinator of the apostolic center in Verona, the first signs of Alzheimer's disease began to appear, which led to her transfer to the Tecla Merlo community in Albano. There, she continued to be of service, accompanying her faithful friend, Sr. Renata Amandolesi, on regular walks. But in 2021 her condition continued to decline and she was transferred to the Giacomo Alberione community. By then, she no longer spoke; she communicated with only one expression, the meaning of which was known only to her: *zara, zara*. The Lord came for her suddenly while she was sitting in her wheelchair having an afternoon snack. She simply closed her eyes and went to heaven. It is meaningful to recall that on the very day of her first profession, the Founder compared life to a journey: "Having come forth from the hands of God, we make our journey through this world and return to God. Just as Jesus himself said: *I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; now I am leaving the world again to return to the Father*. This is the path. What matters is that this way be well traveled" (FSP60, p. 82).

Sr. M. Ester, like so many of our sisters, walked this path. She drew strength from the Body of Christ and the Cup of Salvation, and now the Lord fulfills his promise and opens to her the doors of eternal life.

Affectionately,


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, November 28, 2025