



Dear Sisters,

On Tuesday March 31, at 5:15 a.m., in the infirmary of the Alba community, the Lord Jesus chose to unite our sister more intimately with His Paschal Mystery:

GALLI RITA Sr. MARIA ROMANA
born in Pessano (Milan) July 18, 1933

“I am happy to be a Daughter of St. Paul and to belong to the Pauline Family. God has given me a good family, vocation, apostolate, Pauline spirituality. I have received so much for my spiritual growth and personal fulfillment. I live immersed in great gratitude to God and the company of so many sisters.” In these few lines we can see the whole personality of Sr. M. Romana. The sisters who knew her always admired her depth of self-giving, maturity and dignity, her graciousness and composure, as well as her ability to spread goodness. She radiated to all the joy of having encountered the Lord, the great Good of her entire life.

Sr. M. Romana entered the congregation in Alba, on October 1, 1954. After a time of formation and apostolic experience in Turin, she made her novitiate year in Rome, followed by first profession on June 30, 1958. During her juniorate she devoted herself to itinerant outreach in the valleys of Trentino and made a valuable contribution to the Catechetical Office in Turin. On the Solemnity of St. Paul in 1963 she made her perpetual profession in Rome. Soon after, in Turin, she began working in the film apostolate, an assignment that would mark nearly thirty years of her Pauline life. We remember her, too, in the large and active “San Paolo Film” agencies in Turin, Brescia, and Rome-Castro Pretorio, reading through catalogs, as she organized programming, and developed film discussion encounters (“cineforums”). She also shared, especially with priests and teachers, a desire to promote a Christian culture through image and sound. She would visit parishes personally to understand their needs and offer guidance on using the language of film in catechesis and various forms of evangelization.

We remember Sr. M. Romana as the coordinator of some of the most important Pauline book centers in Italy: Turin, Ancona, Udine, and Lecce. But in a special way we remember her as the superior of very large communities, including Palermo, Turin, Rome-Castro Pretorio, and Livorno. She always valued each person, ready to establish strong pastoral relationships with priests and laity. She was animated by a deep desire to draw people closer so as to communicate the beauty of Christian life and the values of faith. She also took great joy in the universality of the congregation. A highlight was when she had had the joy of welcoming some junior sisters to study Italian in the Via Castro Pretorio community in Rome. She confided, “Each young sister, in her own unique way, has enriched my being...I carry them all in my heart...without this experience my life would be poorer.”

In 2014 Sr. M. Romana was assigned to the community of Milan where she dedicated herself to the switchboard and accounting. Then, in 2022, the Lord visited her through a diagnosis of breast cancer. After surgery she was assigned to Alba where she continued to reflect serenity, a spirit of service, and a deep acceptance of each person. For the past few months, due to the worsening of her illness, she was transferred to the infirmary. She repeated her thanks to everyone, welcoming in faith even this last stage of life. A few days ago, her condition suddenly declined. Sr. M. Romana was now ready to welcome the experience of spousal intimacy, to *see* and *touch* her Master and ascend, with Him, to the Father in the marvelous light of the kingdom.

Affectionately,

Rome, March 31, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan