



Dearest Sisters,

On June 23, at 3:30 p.m. at the Divina Provvidenza community in Rome, the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, welcomed our sister

ALOJA MARIA, Sr. RITA MARIA
born in Favignana, Trapani, on August 13, 1935

Sr. Rita M. was a sister who stood out for her competence and clarity, precision and integrity, reliability and steadfast dedication in carrying out every responsibility entrusted to her.

Born on the island of Favignana, the largest of the Egadi Islands near Sicily, she entered the congregation in Rome on September 9, 1954. She also made her novitiate in this house followed by her first profession on June 30, 1958. As a young professed sister, she carried out the apostolate in Naples, the only time she would live in a branch house throughout her life.

In 1963, after making her perpetual profession, Sr. Rita M. was transferred to the community of Albano, where she devoted herself to administrative and secretarial responsibilities. To carry out these duties with greater competence, she earned a diploma in accounting. During those years, work was underway to expand the healthcare facility and to build the church located at the center of the community and hospital complex. For about twenty-five years, Sr. Rita M. accompanied the growth of the hospital and the Albano community with love and wisdom, a spirit of sacrifice, and remarkable initiative. She also served two terms as delegated superior. Though naturally shy, she loved to tell jokes and stories, and delighted in writing, directing, and producing theatrical performances for the community. A skilled seamstress, Sr. Rita M. also created the costumes and outfits used in these productions. Despite living with a severe hearing impairment, she possessed a remarkable ability to listen with her heart, to understand others, and to be close to the sisters, especially in times of need.

At the completion of her term of service in 1987, and already in her fifties, Sr. Rita M. readily enrolled in the Faculty of Law without hesitation to further her education and offer more qualified assistance to the mission. While living in the Via dei Lucchesi community, she studied with great dedication, even obtaining several scholarships. Sr. M. Rita was unable to complete her law degree, however, because the Superior General called her to serve as provincial bursar, a responsibility she would hold for six nonconsecutive terms, totaling nearly twenty years. In 2002, she was appointed legal representative of the congregation in Italy, a role previously carried out by the Superior General.

Sr. Rita managed the congregation's resources with wisdom, generosity, and transparency. Her deep trust in Divine Providence and in the support of the sisters enabled her to remain calm and composed, never anxious, even in the face of emergencies or demanding financial deadlines. Over the years, she readily adapted to the evolving requirements of her apostolate, moving from basic community bookkeeping to fiscal administration and the use of modern computerized systems. Above all, she was a faithful apostle. On the occasion of her 60th anniversary of Pauline consecrated life, she wrote: "St. Paul gives us an example of fidelity. I continually ask for this fidelity and wish it for every sister: to live her vocation faithfully and consistently until the end."

Sr. Rita M. was truly faithful to the very end, even when repeated strokes brought her work to an end and left her bedridden, and when she became reliant on artificial nutrition for a prolonged period. Like the Apostle Paul, Sr. Rita M. *fought the good fight*, offering her life day by day as a pleasing sacrifice to the Father. May she now be crowned with the *crown of righteousness*, the eternal crown, promised to all who love the Lord and eagerly await his return (cf. 2 Tim 4:6–8).

Affectionately,

Rome, June 23, 2026



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan