



Dearest Sisters,

On August 30, the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, at 9:00 p.m., in the infirmary of the Divina Provvidenza community in Rome, Christ the Master called our sister to himself to give her the fullness of life

PAPPALARDO Sr. ANNA (Sr. Patrizia)
born in Naples on January 2, 1935

A few years ago, with genuine affection, Sr. Anna recounted her first meeting with Maestra Thecla, which took place in the Naples community before she entered the Congregation. She remembered her as a majestic yet gentle presence, with a penetrating gaze and simple words filled with humanity and love. She also recalled Maestra Thecla's great interest in her personally, in her interests and aspirations: *She asked me what I would like to do in the future. Since I was teaching at the time, while I was still pursuing higher studies, she assured me, "You will be able to teach with us, too." She was right!*

Indeed, Sr. Anna is remembered especially for her gifts as a teacher, her love of study and reflection, her skill as a writer, and for keeping alive among us the teaching dimension of the Pauline vocation.

She entered the Congregation in the Rome community on October 2, 1956, at the age of twenty-one, after earning her teaching diploma while still living at home. From the beginning, Sr. Anna was assigned to the administrative offices followed by a period of service in the Messina archdiocesan catechetical office. She then made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on June 30, 1960. During her juniorate, she briefly experienced the itinerant mission in Aosta, then given the opportunity to pursue a systematic study of theology in the house of studies in Rome.

In 1964, Sr. Anna was missioned to Spain, to the Madrid San Bernardo community, where she taught the young women in formation. Upon returning to Rome in 1970, she continued this apostolate, assisting sisters who were completing their studies and preparing to take examinations in state schools. Sr. Anna, however, never ceased her own studies, and in 1976 she earned a degree in education and a licentiate in theology. For a time, she was called to collaborate in the diocesan offices of Treviso. Then, for about ten years, she taught in the initial formation programs of the Society of St. Paul, while earning a second degree, this time in literature.

From 1998 to 2000, at the Via dei Lucchesi community in Rome, Sr. Anna coordinated the group of sisters engaged in an in-depth study of the Pauline charism. At the Divina Provvidenza community, where she spent much of her life, she served several terms as group leader. She always paid particular attention to fostering a spirit of study, while also putting to good use her considerable culinary skills, especially in baking and pastry making. Sr. Anna is also fondly remembered for her commitment to parish ministry, where she served as a catechist to generations of parishioners. In 2003, she was called to serve as superior of the Via Bosio community in Rome. For several years afterward, she competently served as animator of the Pauline Cooperators in Italy, eventually becoming the national coordinator.

We remember Sr. Anna as a regular contributor to various Pauline magazines, especially "Il Cooperatore Paolino" and "Madre di Dio." She wrote reflections for various ecclesial and Pauline feasts as well as articles on social issues and current events. Sr. Anna's was truly a rich and deeply lived Pauline experience. Stricken several years ago by severe anemia and kidney failure, she bore her illness with great dignity and a spirit of self-offering, her heart always turned toward Maestra Thecla, whom she had always regarded as *a luminous beacon lighting the way for her "daughters" like a watchful and loving mother.*

Affectionately,

Rome, August 31, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan