Figlie di San Paolo

Dearest Sisters,

On November 3, at 10:40 a.m., in the Alba community, our good and merciful Father called to his dwelling place of light and peace our sister

LENTI Sr. VIRGINIA
born in Grottaglie, Taranto, Italy on January 5, 1928

Sr Virginia had a radiant face, always smiling and reaching out to others, especially sisters in need of care. “How are you?” was the constant refrain that sprang from her heart, a question expressing her genuine concern for everyone. Her bright, mischievous eyes were always alert to every need and how she might respond. Sr. Virginia lived among us as an attentive, welcoming sister, always ready to give of herself. She also had a playful sense of humor, appreciated all things beautiful, and remained faithful to her daily encounter with her Master.

Sr. Virginia entered the congregation in Rome many years ago, on June 8, 1948. She completed her formation there, followed by her first profession on March 19, 1951. With the faith and extraordinary apostolic energy of that springtime of Pauline life, she carried out the itinerant apostolate in the Diocese of Novara and the Archdiocese of Bari. While still in temporary vows, however, she was called to Rome to help in the infirmary and learn the art of loving, attentive care. After about a decade of enriching human and religious experience, she joined the Ancona community in 1974 to work with the San Paolo Film Agency. Before long, however, she had to leave again because her presence was needed in Rome.

In 1982, a particularly demanding period began for her when she was called to care for her seriously ill mother and a sister who was blind. It was a difficult experience, lived in faith and trustful surrender, and after four years it brought her the great joy of returning to the community. She then served as superior in Cosenza for three years. By then, however, her particular calling was to be at the side of sisters who were ill, and they were waiting for her at Naples Capodimonte.

Sr. Virginia dearly loved the book apostolate, which gave her the opportunity to use her gift for communication. But each assignment was brief. After a period working in the Salerno book center, in 1998 she readily accepted the superior general’s invitation to join the generalate community and serve as a nurse. Who could forget her countless thoughtful gestures toward every sister, especially those returning from abroad for periods of rest? Who could forget her cheerful, kind presence, always ready to help but also eager for an outing, a vacation, or a game of cards? Her stays at the house in Tor San Lorenzo during those years remain unforgettable: her beach outfits, her ever-present swim ring, and her friendship with the lifeguards, whom she would call on for help even before entering the water. Sr. Virginia remained faithful to this vacation tradition even when she was in her nineties and living in Alba. In fact, in 2013, feeling that she was getting on in years, she herself had asked to return to Alba, the places where her Pauline life had begun. There, too, she continued to care for the sisters, tending to their feet with her skills as a foot-care specialist and offering encouragement and practical help to those entrusted with responsibilities. She continued doing so until quite recently. In the past few days, Sr. Virginia showed signs of feeling unwell. Her condition quickly proved to be very serious. General organ failure led to a coma from which she never awoke.

We thank her with all our hearts and entrust her to the Father’s embrace, asking him to surround her with his love and place on her lips the new song of those who have been saved.

Affectionately,

Rome, November 3, 2026

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Figlie di San Paolo
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