

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

At 10:45 this morning the Divine Master visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy to call to “remain with him forever” our sister:

**SGUAZZARDO ROSETTA – SR. MARIA ROBERTA**  
**born in Cadidavid (Verona), Italy on 5 November 1931.**

Sr. Roberta entered the Congregation in the community of Alba on 15 March 1950. During her period of initial formation, she carried out the apostolate of capillary diffusion in the diocese of Brescia. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1953.

In 1978 she wrote with profound conviction: “Life has meaning insofar as it is offered to God and spent for one’s brothers and sisters.” With this certitude, she dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the different forms of the Pauline apostolate that she was asked to undertake in various communities of Italy. As a young professed, she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Venice, then was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency in Ancona. After her perpetual profession she collaborated with the cinema apostolate in Perugia for about 12 years. Sr. Roberta loved this apostolate and sought to deepen her knowledge of film production so as to be able to recommend films suitable for different categories of people.

She participated in a number of updating courses in this field, which helped her to appreciate the language of films and hone her skills so as to carry out the Pauline mission more effectively. In fact, during a congress held in 1958, the Founder had insisted: “The cinema is an enormous power and can be used as an instrument of evangelization. This apostolate needs saints....”

In 1970, Sr. Roberta was transferred to Udine, where she worked in the book center. Following this, she was assigned to Trieste and Bologna, remaining in the latter community for 10 years. In 1989 a new chapter of her life began—a period that she found particularly difficult because she was no longer in direct contact with the people. First assigned to the bindery of Alba, she was then transferred to Sassari, where she performed various household services. Next, she was relocated to the Italian Provincialate, where she worked at the reception desk for a number of years, and after that she was assigned to the community of Naples/Capodimonte.


In 2010, Sr. Roberta was transferred to the Thecla Merlo community of Albano because she was suffering from Parkinson’s disease and her body was gradually becoming more and more rigid. At the beginning of this year, because the progression of the disease had left her bedridden, she was moved to the James Alberione community.

The last stage of Sr. Roberta’s life was filled with suffering, even though she was lovingly cared for by the sisters and nurses in her community, who sought in every way possible to alleviate her painful bedsores. She suffered muscle spasms so strong that she often cried out in pain and begged the Lord to call her to heaven.

A few days ago Sr. Roberta received the Anointing of the Sick so we can say she was truly ready to place her life in the hands of the Divine Master in a final act of self-surrender to him.

The words of the responsorial psalm of today’s Liturgy: “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord,” offer us a consoling picture of Sr. Roberta’s last moments of life because she is now in the realm of eternal joy, peace and eternal youth. This is how we like to think of her as we thank God for the gift of her life and entrust her to his infinite mercy.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 6 May 2015