

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

In the “Medicine” wing of the Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano, last night at 8:31 p.m. (local time), the merciful Father immersed one of our sisters in the waters of salvation:

PANI Sr GENNARINA
born in Quartu Sant'Elena (Cagliari) on 4 April 1931

She was proud to be able to celebrate her birthday together with Blessed Alberione and to share in the abundant prayers that were raised on that date by the whole Pauline Family. She loved life and recognised with joy that each new day was a manifestation of God’s goodness.

Sr Gennarina entered the Congregation in Rome on 8 July 1957 and after a period of formation and apostolic experience in that diocese, she made her novitiate, still in Rome, which she concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1960. Precisely on the Feast of St Paul, the Founder proclaimed the Pauline Family’s Year of the Bible and insisted on the rediscovery of the reading of the Word of God because: “... to have the grace to give it to others, we must nourish ourselves with it.”

It was the time of the launch of the inexpensive, “one thousand lire” Bible, which was disseminated on a large scale especially through its distribution to families and community groups, often accompanied by book displays, Bible and catechetical days. While in the community of Castro Pretorio (Rome), home to a good number of “propagandists”, Sr Gennarina lived with intensity and commitment, in an atmosphere of apostolic enthusiasm and progress in the various areas of Pauline life. For twelve years in a row, with the other sisters, she carried out the itinerant mission by car (also as a driver) to the parishes, schools, offices and families of the capital and the surrounding cities. “The Bible in every family” was the *slogan* that put wings on her feet and offered profound motivation for her life. She was happy and even expressed in writing the joy she carried in her heart: “With every day that passes I feel more enthusiastic about the Pauline vocation.”

In 1972, she was transferred to the “Divine Providence” community to work in the bookbinding department, where there was intense activity. From the community in Via Bosio, she then devoted herself to the distribution of films in the very active *San Paolo Film* agency in Via Castro Pretorio, where up to three hundred films a week were verified and sent to the parishes.


In 1984, a new experience awaited her, still in Rome but in the provincial house in Via Vivanti. For more than ten years, she worked with willingness, precision, order and a sense of belonging, as a driver, going on errands and as the switchboard operator.

She then returned in 1995 to Via Antonino Pio, in the Regina degli Apostoli community, where she lived practically until her death, devoting herself, with her usual elegance and finesse, as doorkeeper, as well as managing the magazine archives and working in the packaging of product. Her love of cleanliness and beauty was also expressed in the care of the sacristy and her preparation of flowers according to the liturgy. For about two years, she had been suffering from various illnesses. This past February, she was hospitalised at Regina Apostolorum, having been exposed to *Covid-19*. However, she eventually tested negative and returned to the community. A few weeks ago, she suddenly declined and after a few short stays in other hospitals, she was received in Albano, now in a terminal phase.

As we entrust this dear sister into the loving arms of the Father, we recall what she herself wrote, referring to the last moment of her life: “I praise, bless and thank the Lord for the gift of the Pauline vocation and for all those who have helped me with their witness of evangelical faith, charity and fraternity.” A “thank you”, united with the lively desire that at her funeral we might sing, with joy, the *Scio cui credidi* (2 Tim 1:12). Sr Gennarina spent her whole life in the certainty of God’s faithfulness and we imagine that this conviction accompanied her on her last day, the day of light and peace.

Affectionately,

Rome, 16 March 2021.


sr Anna Maria Parenzan