

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

At about 8:00 this morning, our merciful Father visited San Camillo Hospital, Rome, Italy to call to fullness of life one of our sisters who had been urgently transferred there:

CAMPUS GIUSEPPA – SR. GAVINA
born in Sassari, Italy on 30 September 1932.

Sr. Gavina entered the Congregation in the house of Rome on 6 July 1956. In this big community, which stands in the shadow of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, she underwent her initial formation and novitiate, concluding it with her profession of the religious vows on the Feast of St. Paul, 30 June 1960. It was a time particularly blessed by the Lord, during which preparations for the Second Vatican Council were underway and the Congregation was celebrating a Biblical Year and the 19th centenary of St. Paul's arrival in Rome. During her Juniorate, Sr. Gavina collaborated for three consecutive years in spreading the Word of God, reaching thousands of families in the buildings of the capital.

After her perpetual profession in 1965, she was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency of Brescia and then to the one in Sassari. Following a year of updating in Alba, she began a new stage of her Pauline life, entirely dedicated to the service of our sick sisters. At first she was a member of the Divine Master community, Rome, then the Thecla Merlo community of Albano, then the St. Joseph community of Alba and finally the Divine Providence community of Rome, where she worked as a nurse's aide for over 15 years. Sr. Gavina was a quiet, gentle and good person—a kind, humble and helpful sister who sincerely loved the neediest members of the communities in which she lived and tried to assist them in every way possible. Her simple and almost ingenuous personality radiated the wisdom that came from her profound relationship with the Divine Master—a regenerating and transforming contact that she assiduously cultivated and never neglected.

She was happy to live in the climate fostered by the Shrine of Mary, our Queen, and she dedicated ample time, even her free time, to helping out in its sacristy, where she devoted great attention to details. She was not interested in doing big things but in living in a spirit of littleness, offering to our heavenly Mother her many small and often hidden services to beautify that “house of God” and keep it neat and orderly because she considered to be the “house” of our Family, the “house” of the parish, and above all the “house” of vocations. She never forgot that it was the “house” in which Fr. Alberione had asked our Mother to send vocations to all apostolates, to all religious institutes, to all seminaries, to all nations and, in a special way, to the most urgent, modern and effective apostolates.

In 2006, Sr. Gavina joyfully participated in the month-long course of spiritual exercises of the Pauline Family according to the proposal of *Donec Formetur* and she never missed an opportunity to reflect on the input she had received there so as to respond in an ever-more complete way to her Lord. A very upright person, she lived by faith and proclaimed her faith to everyone the Lord placed on her path.

About five years ago, the onset of Parkinson's disease and ongoing intestinal problems made it necessary for Sr. Gavina to receive assistance from her sisters, instead of provide it, as she had done for so many years. In the last months of her life, she was hospitalized several times, sometimes for prolonged periods, at the Israelite Hospital of Rome. Pictures of her often appeared on Facebook and they reflect her serenity and joy at the visits of the sisters and their solicitude toward her. Last night, her condition unexpectedly took a turn for the worse and she was urgently transferred to San Camillo Hospital where, a short time later, she breathed her last as a result of an abdominal hemorrhage. Thus Sr. Gavina has returned “home” to contemplate the great Love of her life, in the kingdom of light, peace and endless mercy.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 12 October 2021