

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 9:50 p.m. yesterday, the Virgin Mary visited the San Raffaele wing of our Albano community, Italy, to accompany into the presence of the Lord of Life our sister:

VANNINI MARIA – SR. REDENTA
born in Villanova di Castenaso (Bologna), Italy, on 6 April 1934.

Sr. Redenta was a very active sister who dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the apostolate of nursing, which she carried out throughout her long Pauline life with intelligence, dedication and love. She entered the Congregation on 30 Sept. 1956, in Alba, after having held various positions in the Catholic Action group in her hometown. During her initial formation, she made good use of her skills as a seamstress. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1960, the day on which our Founder announced that the Pauline Family would celebrate the following year as the *Year of the Bible*. Certainly Sr. Redenta never imagined that she would be called to proclaim the Gospel not in distant lands but in just one place for her entire religious life, namely, at the bedsides of her sick and suffering sisters. Arriving in our Albano community as a Junior professed sister, its infirmary became the place of her formation and daily self-offering. Her Juniorate ended with a few months of preparation for perpetual profession, which she made in Rome in 1965. Sr. Redenta was very content with her Pauline vocation. In 1963, when she wrote to the Superior General requesting permission to renew her vows, she said in her letter: “The Lord has blessed me by calling me to the religious life and I couldn’t be happier!”

In 1965, she obtained her diploma as a professional nurse and in 1972 another diploma as head nurse. She began her nursing activities by serving the sisters in our Albano community suffering from tuberculosis. She took part in the entire history of our Queen of Apostles Hospital, beginning with its origins as a small congregational clinic up to its transformation into a large Regional Hospital for Italy’s Albano zone. Over the years, she held various managerial positions there, including as head of its department for lung diseases and as a member of its board of directors.

Sr. Redenta was known for her goodness, generosity, jovial character, and lively participation in many commendable causes. She was truly tireless in serving others. Her powerful voice, which thundered down the hospital’s hallways, hid a good, simple heart filled with love for everyone. From 1981-1999, she also served as councilor of what was at that time our Albano Delegation. This very large community lived almost in symbiosis with the hospital. Its initiatives on the pastoral level multiplied and the various subgroups in the community creatively enriched every dimension of the Pauline life. Sr. Redenta was fully involved in the growth and development of Queen of Apostles Hospital, carrying out with competence and conviction its mission, which was unique in our Congregation.

In the year 2000, she accepted the request of the Superior General to leave the hospital wards and take on the service of nurse of the Albano community. She was put in charge of the San Raffaele wing of the house, reserved for sisters in need of long-term care. With insight, solicitude and competence, she accompanied countless FSPs to their definitive meeting with the Lord. Very sensitive to the spiritual dimension of the religious life, she participated enthusiastically in the month-long course of spiritual exercises organized for the Pauline Family according to the spiritual-apostolic proposal of Fr. Alberione.

Several years ago, a number of serious illnesses forced Sr. Redenta to join the ranks of the sick members of the Congregation—a “role” she fulfilled in an exemplary way, with deep gratitude, care and concern for her caregivers. She would always say that she was fine, even when the tears that sometimes leaked from her eyes belied that reassurance, or when, in her last days, she became impatient with the Father for not calling her to heaven more quickly, given the extreme gravity of her situation.

Her brief spiritual testament reads: “I am praying for all of you. Please pray for me. I love the sick very much. Until we meet again in the next life...” With deep gratitude, we place Sr. Redenta in the merciful arms of God, sure that she is now living forever in the splendid abode of the saints.

Affectionately,

Rome, 21 January 2023


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan