



Dearest sisters,

At 1:45 p.m. today, in the St. Raphael wing of the Albano community, an ardent Pauline missionary, who recently turned 100 years old, died gently in the Lord:

**TOSCHI ANNA sr MARIA IMELDA**  
**born in Montebonello (Modena) on May 24, 1924**

Sr. Anna (as she was called in her later years) journeyed through a long and fulfilled life with lightness, elegance, and great kindness. She took on the festive character of the Colombian nation that had welcomed her at a young age and had become her home, a place of intense giving and joy.

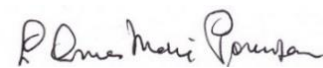
She entered the Congregation in Alba on October 22, 1938, at fourteen, following the example of her older sister, Sr. Julia. In 1941, she went to Rome to continue her formation and was assigned to the bindery to learn the art of making books. On June 29, 1946, at the end of her novitiate, she made her first profession in Alba and asked for the grace “to be all of Jesus” and to cooperate more in the salvation of souls. She also promised to live “in fervor and sacrifice for the glory of God and a more fruitful apostolate.”

After a brief apostolic experience in Brescia, Sr. Anna was chosen, with three others, to open the first community in Colombia. As often happened to our missionaries, they first spent a few months in the United States to collect offerings for the new foundation. On October 8, 1947, M. Thecla sent them a little letter full of affection: “Always united with you in thought... if I do not write often, do not feel bad, as I carry you written in my heart before the Tabernacle and at Holy Mass.” On April 24, 1948, Sr. Anna, Sr. M. Letizia Ellena, Sr. Giovanna Vaschetto, and Sr. Luigina Grandi arrived via ship in Barranquilla (Colombia) and continued to Bogotá, the first foundation. After a few months, they communicated to M. Thecla about the graces they had received, especially the completion of the chapel and the first Colombian vocation: “The chapel is small, but it is a piece of heaven... We no longer feel alone because Jesus is nearby. He tells us: ‘Do not fear, I am with you.’” After her perpetual profession, made in Rome on June 30, 1951, though still very young, Sr. Anna was appointed superior of the community of Manizales. In the following years, she served as formator and superior in Las Lajas, where the sisters managed a radio station. In 1972, she became the provincial bursar and then superior of the house in Quito (Ecuador). She then carried out, with much enthusiasm, vocation ministry in Bogota and Medellin. For about ten years, Sr. Anna helped produce audiovisuals and was a dynamic member of the book center staff in Barranquilla. After this, she oversaw the reorganization of the province's photographic archives and wrote the history of the circumscription with Sr. Luz Mery Restrepo. Always joyful and friendly, Sr. Anna was happiest when she could share her thoughts in a radio or television interview.

In December 2013, she joined the San Raphael wing of the Albano community, bringing cheer to the sisters with her wit, vivacity, and beautiful voice, which resonated everywhere, especially when she sang, “Mamma sono tanto felice ...” (“Mother, I am so happy.”)

Sr. Anna’s deepest longing, especially in her final days, was to be with Jesus and return to Him. With a radiant smile, she would often say, “He is everything to me.” Her heart yearned for her hometown, Montebello, but she longed even more for the Father's House. As she embarks on her final journey, we pray, entrusting Sr. Anna to the merciful embrace of the good Father, who we believe will grant her the fullness of life and joy she so eagerly awaits.

Affectionately,



*sr Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, July 14, 2024