



Dearest sisters,

At 5:50 a.m. on this 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Mission Day, at the Hospice of Bra (CN), the Father of Light invited to the Banquet of Life our sister

MASELLA Sr. GIOVANNA
born in Brindisi on March 5, 1946

How fitting to speak of the life of sr Giovanna, are the words from today's reading from the prophet Isaiah, that the Church offers to the people of God for meditation: "Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days..." After the many sufferings that were part of her life, we are confident that this dear sister already contemplates that Face she always sought, to whom she gave her all.

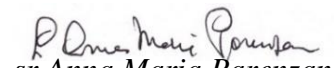
Orphaned at an early age, she was proud to be the youngest of three sisters who were all *Paulines*: Sr. Tommasa, who died in 2023, and Valeria, an Annunciationist. Sr. Giovanna entered the congregation on October 11, 1967, after having graduated with a degree in business management. She lived her first years of formation in Rome, along with about 50 other young women, and became known for her goodness, simplicity, and friendliness. Sr. Giovanna's view of life was characterized by simplicity; she was always ready to laugh and make people smile. Everything to her was good and beautiful!

Sr. Giovanna made her first profession in Alba on June 29, 1972, at the Church of the Divine Master, alongside a large group of sisters with whom she had shared two years of novitiate. Afterward, she spent her juniorate in Bari, studying theology and engaged in the itinerant apostolate. Following a brief experience at the *San Paolo Film Agency* in Naples, she spent time at the Generalate preparing for her perpetual profession. On November 1, 1978, in the crypt of the Queen of Apostles Basilica, she made her perpetual profession in a memorable celebration presided over by the now Blessed Cardinal Edward Pironio. Reflecting on the occasion, she wrote, "After having experienced both challenges and graces and recognizing the Lord's gift, I can now say my final 'yes' without any fear..." She then joyfully dedicated herself to spreading the Gospel in the book centers in Taranto, Reggio Calabria, Cremona, Bologna, and Mantua.

In 1990, as the symptoms of a serious bipolar disorder became more evident, she was transferred to the San Giuseppe community in Alba. For about fifteen years, she worked with generosity and love in the busy Alba bindery, helping to package thousands of Bibles. In 2006, she was assigned to the Motherhouse community, where she continued to assist with small daily tasks until her health required her to move to the infirmary. Despite her mental illness, Sr. Giovanna remained a free and joyful person, greatly loved by her sisters and the nursing staff. She was faithful in prayer and open to whatever the Lord sent her, no matter how difficult.

Two weeks ago, a very aggressive form of cancer was discovered in her abdomen, and she underwent surgery. It soon became clear that her condition was critical. On this Mission Sunday, our loving Father invited her *to approach the throne of grace with full confidence* (cf. Heb. 4:16), to join in the celebration of the wedding banquet of eternal life.

With affection,


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, October 20, 2024