

Dearest Sisters,



With deep emotion we inform you that in the community of Albano, today at 2:40 a.m. (local time) today, our sister was called to live in full intimacy with her Lord and Master:

BISOTTO LUCIA Sr ANNA TERESA born in Boves (Cuneo) on December 27, 1933

On her 90th birthday, Sr. Anna Teresa wrote: "I give thanks to the Lord for what He has given me. I have always relied on Him and He has never let me down especially in painful times and moments. I give thanks to the Lord for His mercy for letting me meet people who have helped me. I also thank the sisters in the community and pray for them always." These few lines communicate the whole life of Sr. Anna Teresa marked by simplicity and wisdom, maturity and faithfulness, moderation, and grace. She belonged to a large family of fourteen children, one of whom died at an early age, and two sisters who became Consolata Missionary Sisters. In her hometown of Boves, she endured the harsh realities of wartime as a child, witnessing the destruction of her family home and 350 homes of others in a town devastated by Nazi-Fascist violence. Eager to support her family, she earned her basic nursing diploma and had seven years of professional experience before entering the congregation.

On June 22, 1958, Sr. Anna Teresa left her home for Alba to begin her formative journey. In the Archdiocese of Milan she devoted herself for some time to our Pauline itinerant mission and experienced the joy of proclaiming the Gospel to families, schools, and institutes. She made her novitiate in Rome followed her first profession on June 30, 1961. Soon afterwards she was transferred to our house in Albano where she served as a nurse, caring for many sick Daughters of St. Paul. It marked the beginning of a long journey for Sr. Anna Teresa, living day by day in the same community, with occasional short periods dedicated to serving as a professional nurse for the sisters in the generalate and provincial house. She earned a degree in nursing and in 1975 had the opportunity to attend a tropical medicine course in Kinshasa (Congo), where she had gone to help set up an infirmary for the Pauline brothers. The three-year African experience remained in her heart forever. Yet our house in Albano and the Regina Apostolorum Hospital were the centers of her daily service and the defining experiences of her life, particularly in her role as the operating room charge nurse and as supervisor of various diagnostic services, with a special focus on encephalograms (EEG). For some time, she was a member of the hospital's Board of Directors.

Sr. Anna Teresa was a self-motivated lifelong learner and made Pauline *studiosità* a way of life. She confided, "I always read up on what was not clear to me, and I always had a strong devotion to the Holy Spirit... And my Guardian Angel was always faithful to his task." She loved reading books and magazines and was devoted to Vatican Radio. She was especially nourished by the writings of the Founder and the *Prayer Book of the Pauline Family*. Sr. Anna Teresa also enjoyed communicating what she had learned to the sisters.

Illness struck suddenly. In early December, signs of liver dysfunction became visible on Sr. Anna Teresa's face and during her brief hospitalization pancreatic cancer was diagnosed. Day by day, she embraced silence and peace, perhaps reflecting on the dream she had carried in her heart and shared a few years earlier: "I am approaching the moment of encountering the Lord, and I want to make myself as beautiful as I can! And so that is why I pray and seek to embroider life with dazzling threads." It was a dream that has now become a radiant reality. The suffering of Sr. Anna Teresa's final days surely prepared her to see God as He truly is and to enjoy His eternal presence.

Affectionately,

P Ome Marie Porusa Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, January 2, 2025