

OUR SALESIAN PATRONS AND HEROES

PAOLA ADAMO

Almost sixty years later in Naples, on October 24, 1963, Paola Adamo was born, the daughter of Claudio and Lucia, architects. Her papa was responsible for the church of St. John Bosco in Taranto, where the Adamo family were living, and it was there in the shadow of the Salesian house that Paola lived here life. Papa and Mamma were Salesian Cooperators and catechists, and it is there who prepared their very special little girl to meet Jesus. From being very young she showed great sensitivity and intelligence.

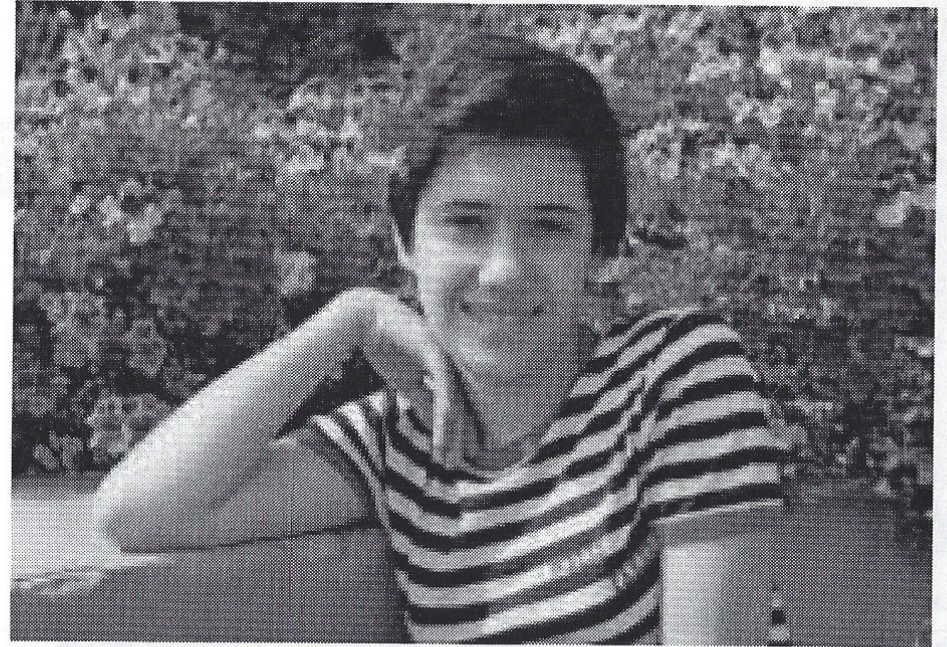
At 9 years of age she began keeping a secret diary in which she wrote something that throws light on the interior life of this young girl: "If you believe in God you have the world in your hands." There are those who express doubt that it is possible to be a saint at the age, but we believe that big decisions have their beginnings precisely at that stage in life: a time of spring-like growth. Don Bosco also thought so; and it is this that is at heart of his "preventive" thinking. Those who knew her were won over by her spontaneity, by her love for life and beautiful things.

"If God is the source of every thing only He can make us really happy!"



An extraordinarily normal girl, with her joys and her crosses, with her dreams and her disappointments. Paola is a fascinating model of holiness lived in the things of everyday life. at home, in church, at school, with friends. Those places where she passed her days were lit up by her presence and became the places where she grew up in human and spiritual terms, places where she felt loved, and learned to love, where she made courageous decisions putting Jesus at the center, where she came to understand that life is grace and should be lived as grace. Paola overflowed with affection for her parents and was happy to play the guitar and sing to them, to be kind to her companions even those who were a bit catty towards her. She said:

**“If God
is the source of every thing
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She died at the age of 15, on June 28, 1978, struck down by infectious hepatitis. A short time had been enough for her to understand what Psalmist says: “Help us to count our days and we shall gain wisdom of heart.”

In her bedroom there was a life of Don Bosco: she used to read a few pages in the evening. Who then is Paola? A girl of today, with holiness for today, made up of duties towards God and our neighbor, of serene but conscious giving, of love for her parents. She didn't work miracles nor do anything heroic, but she carried out her duties to the full, for love and with love.

