

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

Only four hours after the death of Sr. M. Immacolata Vaz, the Lord once more visited our community of Mumbai, India to call to himself a great Pauline missionary:

BARUZZI SR. ALBINA
born in Provaglio Sopra (Brescia), Italy on 29 March 1926.

Sr. Albina's life unfolded in pace with the story of our Indian Province, in whose birth and growth she participated, fostering its new vocations and communities. She entered the Congregation in the community of Alba, Italy on 23 October 1946 and spent her initial formation carrying out capillary diffusion in Trieste. Following this, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1949.

After three years of juniorate in Como, Sr. Albina was sent to India on 28 March 1952. She and her companion, Sr. M. Amabilis Esposito, were to join the first group of sisters who had arrived in that immense country the year before. Their arrival was preceded by a letter of Maestra Thecla, who presented them to the first group as her "Christmas gift" to them. From the very start, Sr. Albina embraced her mission on this huge and variegated subcontinent as a great grace—one that went far beyond her every expectation. She wrote: "I never knew that people spoke languages other than Italian, so you can imagine how surprised I was to hear so many different tongues being spoken here!" Without knowing English, let alone the local languages, Sr. Albina and the other sisters began to disseminate the Word of God to the families and also initiated the vocation apostolate with great faith and courage. Nothing could stop them! They themselves recount: "The sun was tremendously hot; the air, humid and heavy. Our legs ached due to all the walking we did, but nothing could wipe the smiles from our faces. We did not meet many Catholics but we met a lot of Hindus, Protestants, Parsees and Muslims. All were deeply struck the books we offered them and by the way we offered them.

Despite her youth, Sr. Albina was quickly entrusted with many responsibilities. On 31 December 1956, she opened the community of Calcutta and was appointed its first superior. Maestra Thecla wrote to her: "I think about you a lot...in the midst of millions of people. The two of you are like angels of peace among the teeming crowds. How well I remember Calcutta!" On 3 January 1962, Sr. Albina arrived in Bangalore to open a community there. Once again she was made superior of the new foundation. Following this, she served as local superior in Mumbai, after which she opened the community of Shillong (8 Dec. 1973), once again appointed as superior. Following this, she served as superior of New Delhi for two terms. For a number of non-consecutive periods, she also carried out the service of junior mistress and teacher of the young women in formation. In addition, she was a provincial councilor for 5 terms, and over the years carried out various duties such as bursar, manager of the Secunderabad book center, and head of the bindery in Mumbai. Sr. Albina was happy to make a contribution to the technical apostolate because it enabled her to remain in contact with the young women in formation and share with them the values of the Pauline vocation and mission.

Several years ago, Sr. Albina had to decide whether she wanted to return to Italy and spend the last years of her life there, or else remain in India. She chose the second option, although she was open to a final decision on the part of her superiors. She wanted to remain a missionary not only up to her death but even *beyond* death. She rejoiced in the progress being made by our Indian Province and the many young women who felt drawn to the Pauline life, offering her prayers and her life for these intentions. In the last stage of her life, prayer—which had been her unflinching support through the years and which had obtained for her the grace to meet difficulties of every type—became her sole form of apostolate. Bedridden due to deteriorating health, she prepared to meet the Lord by allowing herself to be enlightened by his Word in the daily Liturgy, which a sister read to her each night—a comforting ritual that took place up until yesterday evening. Sr. Albina went to meet the Lord bearing in her heart the words of today's Lenten reading: "It is love I desire, not sacrifice...." We believe that the last act of Sr. Albina's life was one of profound love for the Lord, who today invited her to live forever in his presence.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 9 March 2013