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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
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Dearest Sisters,

The Lord has been visiting our family repeatedly these days. At 5:15 this morning, he knocked on the door of our San Raffaele community of Albano, Italy to call to her eternal reward our sister:

**DE SIMONE ALFONSINA – SR. ANNA MARIA**  
**born in San Biagio de Serino (Avellino), Italy on 17 April 1925.**

“I have always loved everyone.” These words, spoken so often by Sr. Anna Maria, are an excellent summary of her life. She truly loved everyone and has left us all, and especially her sister, Sr. Romana, the legacy of her smile, her simple and spontaneous self-offering, and her luminous gaze, which seemed to see into the heart of everyone she met.

Sr. Anna Maria entered the Congregation in the community of Naples on 7 February 1942. After carrying out the diffusion apostolate for several years in Ascoli Piceno, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 19 March 1946. Following this, she returned to the diffusion apostolate in the dioceses of Naples, Ferrara and Palermo successively, her propaganda bag overflowing with books. From 1956-1963, she worked in the St. Paul Film Agency of Catanzaro and at the same time took specialized courses to improve her skills in this field. In 1963, her fragile health required her to spend a significant period of time in our Albano clinic.

Restored to health, she was assigned to the Naples community, where she worked in the sewing room. In 1978, a new stage of her life began when she was asked to return to Albano, which had a critical need for personnel at that time. A temporary situation soon became permanent and Sr. Anna Maria wound up spending the rest of her life in this community. Quickly distinguishing herself for her spirit of service, she was first placed in charge of the laundry room and later of other non-specialized sectors of the hospital. Then she was asked to make an even greater contribution to the hospital by studying to become a registered nurse. Although no longer young, she accepted this request and enrolled in the nursing program at St. Joseph Hospital, Marino, from which she obtained a nursing degree in 1985.

The FSPs who lived with Sr. Anna Maria say that she was a very generous sister who readily volunteered for all the more difficult nursing jobs, especially night shifts. A serene, open and communicative person, she treated all the hospital’s patients and staff kindly and sought to transmit to everyone the solid faith that was an integral part of her life. She worked for several years in the outpatient department, where her sensitivity to people and professional competence put both doctors and patients at ease. Everyone knew they could find an ally in Sr. Anna Maria in their efforts to ensure that the hospital’s environment was always warm, welcoming and efficient. About ten years ago, following an operation to remove part of her intestinal tract, Sr. Anna Maria was obliged to give up nursing. However, her new apostolate at the reception desk in the St. Thecla atrium of the hospital (a wing of the hospital reserved for the FSP community and its visitors) gave her the chance to offer our Pauline sisters and brothers her smile, welcome and attention to their needs.

Sr. Anna Maria’s interior beauty reached its apex during this last year of her life. A series of small strokes made it necessary to transfer her to the San Raffaele wing of the community, where she could receive the ongoing care she needed. In these last few months, the Lord put the finishing touches on the “tapestry” of her life that he was weaving, transforming it into a masterpiece of his grace. All the sisters who visited Sr. Anna Maria were edified by her perpetual smile, her clear and joyous gaze, and her yearning for heaven. Even the songs she sang revealed this longing and we want to remember her in this way—as “singing out” her longing for heaven as she entrusted herself to God through the intercession of St. Paul in the concluding weeks of this year dedicated to him.

Affectionately,

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
Vicar General

Rome, 17 June 2009