

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

With deep emotion we communicate that this evening, at 10:45 PM in the James Alberione House of Albano, the Lord called to the joy of his house our sister

SR. M. ALFONSINA MASCOLO (CARMELA)
Born May 5, 1924 at Agerola (Napoli)

Sr. Alfonsina passed among us spreading goodness, meekness and much simplicity. She entered the Congregation at Salerno on August 10, 1935. She was only eleven years old, but had a great desire to give her life to the Lord for the announcement of the Gospel with the good press. At Alba, in 1937, she received Confirmation. She kept a photo of this among her personal things, and she appears dressed in white, with her face illumined and full of sweetness. At Alba, Sr Alfonsina became an expert in the bindery and the typography. Her fingers flew as she gathered the signatures while her heart was united to the prayers that were called out from stations in the technical apostolate.

She made her Novitiate at Rome, ending with her First Profession on March 19, 1943. Her mastery of bookbinding led to frequent visits to the Rome and Alba communities to lend a helping hand in the bindery. She spent ten years in the community of Bari, where she worked in the Book Center and the St. Paul Film Agency. That period remained always in her heart, and often as she grew older, she would recall the experiences she had in that Pugliese community.

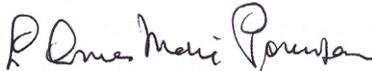
But we remember Sr. Alfonsina above all for the years she lived in the Generalate community, from 1971 to 2006, when she was transferred to Napoli. We recall in a special way her service in the office of the Secretary General. You could place your deepest trust in Sr. Alfonsina. Her discretion, silence, and spirit of service were proverbial, as were her serenity, humility, and industriousness. How many reviews were bound together, how many minutes of Council Meetings were elegantly bound in precious volumes, how many liturgical books were renewed completely in their typographical appearance by her. For these highly professional works, she jealously cared for and kept fresh the glue, the cloth for covers, the folding instruments, the scissors and the adhesive tape. And when, especially during her last years, she was not given much work in the Secretary's office, she knew how to cleverly arrange her day, so she could help in the laundry or in kitchen, especially to clean the fruit.

Fidelity was Sr. Alfonsina's distinctive virtue: Fidelity to her vocation even when, as an adolescent, her homesickness for her mother and family were felt most acutely; fidelity to community life, fidelity to prayer. Sr. Alfonsina was above all faithful to the sisters who little by little took her place in service to the Secretary General, without preferences or comparisons.

When she began to sense that, due to the remodeling of the Generalate, some sisters would need to be transferred elsewhere, she asked to be inserted into the community of Naples. Being near to her family lessened a bit the pain she felt at leaving the House that she loved so, for there the pulse of the heart of the Congregation beats. She uttered this "Yes" with simplicity, and probably with some tears.

In the beginning of 2009, she was stricken by a severe form of stroke that paralyzed her spinal column and her limbs, including also her stomach, kidneys and vital organs. Even when immobilized by her illness, her face wore a sweet and serene expression, and in these past months, irradiated with the light of God. To visit Sr. Alfonsina on her bed of suffering was to experience her abandonment, her total handing over of herself. This entrustment today reached its culmination.

With all our hearts we thank this dear sister for the goodness she spread among us, and we entrust her to the mercy of the Father, so that she may see him face to face and rejoice for eternity.


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar general

Rome, January 30, 2010