

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

At 5:15 p.m. today, the Lord once more visited the infirmary of our Alba, Italy community, this time to call to himself our sister:

**MALLOCI CONCETTA – SR. MARIA FATIMA**  
**born in Albagiara (Oristano), Italy on 23 November 1921.**

Sr. M. Fatima lived the different stages of her Pauline life with great commitment, a missionary spirit and wholehearted dedication. She entered the Congregation in the community of Rome on 16 Sept. 1941. After her initial formation and a “propaganda” experience in Trent, she made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1945. Since she had finished college before entering the Institute and showed good prospects in the academic field, she was placed in the group of sisters studying philosophy and theology in the Congregation. It was a period that would leave a deep mark on her life and on that of the other students in the Grottaferrata community. In fact, the members of the group established a strong bond of friendship among themselves that for some would last until death. At the end of the course, followed by a period of apostolic activity in Trapani, Sr. M. Fatima was called to the ministry of formation in the community of Rome. But the time soon came for her to take the Word of God *ad gentes*—a mission she had desired since her first profession. In 1961, she was sent to Santiago, Chile, where over the years she carried out the services of formator, local superior and Delegation Superior.

After her return to Rome, she took a course for formation mistresses at the Sedes Sapientiae Institute in Rome and in 1968 was sent to Alba to accompany a group of sisters preparing to make their perpetual professions. In 1970 she was appointed superior of the Alba community.

Following this, she was assigned to the FSP Generalate in Rome, where she worked in the *Ut Unum Sint* sector. But in 1978 she was once more called to the missions: this time to Germany to carry out the service of local superior in Dusseldorf. It seems as if the Lord was testing her spirit of availability and she did not fail him. In fact, the Superior General of that time wrote of her: “It does me good to know that the Institute has sisters to whom it can turn in unforeseen and difficult situations—sisters who are ready to meet any need without objection....”

From 1983-1986, Sr. M. Fatima worked as secretary in the administration sector of *The Pauline Cooperators’ Magazine*, and after this she was asked to work in the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in contact with Cardinal Ratzinger. This unforgettable period of service at the heart of the Church would always remain a cherished memory for her. She also served for 2 terms as superior of the community of FSP students in Via Lucchesi, Rome, and then as superior of the Mascherino community in the same city.

In 1999, following these many rich congregational and ecclesial experiences, Sr. M. Fatima was asked to accept a transfer to Alba. She wrote to the Superior General: “I accepted this act of obedience with serenity and peace of heart, even though I have to admit that initially I was thrown off balance. I see it as the Lord’s response to my plea to live the upcoming Jubilee profoundly. You know very well that saying *yes* is not enough; a person has to live her *yes* in order for it to be genuine. The events of my past recorded in the Book of Life are fixed and now a new chapter (perhaps the last one) is opening. With the help of God’s grace, I want to live it to the full. The sisters of Alba have given me a very warm welcome, which they continue to manifest in both word and deed. I feel that I am fully a part of my new community and I am offering it all that I am and all that I do. I visit the sick sisters every day and often find myself moved to tears....”

In 2013, Sr. M. Fatima was admitted to the infirmary wing of the Motherhouse. For several months previously she had suffered a chain of small strokes, which robbed her of speech. She lived the last stage of her life in her customary way: “The passing of time,” she wrote, “has taught me that the most important thing is to live to the full all the joys and sufferings of the present moment. ‘Tomorrow’ is still in the hands of God and when it arrives he will give me the grace to meet its challenges.” We are sure that the Divine Master has already welcomed Sr. M. Fatima into the light and joy of heaven, where she is now singing his praises in union with the many members of the Pauline Family who preceded her.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 21 October 2016