

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

At 6:30 p.m. yesterday, the liturgical memorial of the Queenship of Mary, one of the members of our Divine Providence community, Rome, Italy, was called to contemplate the radiant face of the Lord forever:

SCHINARDI LUCIANA – SR. MARIA ALFONSA
born in Cagliari (Monserrato), Italy, on 12 December 1940.

Sr. Alfonsa was a sister whose life enriched our communities with the characteristics proper to the people of Sardinia. These traits, especially her great industriousness and generous service of others, were very evident in her. Gifted with abundant common sense and a decisive personality, Sr. Alfonsa was very willing to serve others, placing all her talents, in particular the numerous housekeeping skills she had learned as an adolescent, at the disposition of the Congregation.


She entered our Institute in Alba on 8 August 1963. After a period of initial formation and a time of apostolic experience in Mestre, she was sent to Rome to make her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1967. She spent her Juniorate in Verona, where she carried out the diffusion apostolate and also completed her studies in order to receive a high school diploma. Acknowledging that she was very strong-willed, she made a great effort to soften this trait. In a letter requesting permission to renew her vows, she wrote: “Fundamentally, I want to be available to God, and I am constantly trying to grow in the religious life. The spirit of availability to him is the driving force of my life, even if it is sometimes hard to conquer my weaknesses.” Prayer was her nourishment, and she said that she was always striving to make it an ever-more vitalizing dimension of her life.

After making her perpetual profession in Alba on 24 June 1973, Sr. Alfonsa was assigned to the St. Paul Film Agency in Rome. She deeply loved the Pauline mission and once confided, “I want to bring the message of salvation to all people. I love our apostolate and am ready to carry out whatever service is asked of me because I am convinced that it is not me but the Congregation that carries out the Pauline mission. I want to contribute to the common good by docilely fulfilling any activity requested of me.”

In 1977, Sr. Alfonsa asked for a period of exclaustation from the Congregation in order to devote herself to her nieces and nephews, who had been orphaned while still very young. When she returned to the Alba community, she participated in a time of updating and then worked for several years in the technical apostolate. Afterward, she was transferred to Savona, where she devoted herself to itinerant diffusion. In 1985, she was sent to Palermo—a community in which she was able to put her many culinary talents to good use. Although Sr. Alfonsa loved to be in direct contact with people through the Pauline mission, she was always ready to make a contribution to numerous household services.

From 1990-2001, she was a member of the FSP Multimedia community in Via del Mascherino, Rome, where she worked in the kitchen. She was very happy to be living at the center of Christianity, where she joyfully welcomed bishops, priests and a constant flow of people from all over the world, many of whom were invited by the sisters to enjoy the treats Sr. Alfonsa prepared. Her kitchen was the center of the community, and she carried out her services there with a heart always open to the world. She never failed to pray for the needs and intentions of all the patrons of our International Center. Sr. Alfonsa’s open and hard-working personality made her feel like an integral part of the worldwide apostolate of the FSPs and she did her best to foster the mission of the Congregation by means of her prayer and activities.

In 2001, she was transferred to the Divine Providence community, Rome, where she carried out some of the many domestic services needed to maintain such a large community. Her health, which had always been fragile due to rheumatoid arthritis and serious heart ailments, deteriorated especially after she fell victim to Covid 19. She spent over a year the infirmary wing of the house, lovingly cared for by her sisters and the health-care staff. We now entrust our sister with heartfelt gratitude to the loving mercy of God the Father for her presence among us, asking him to allow her to experience to the full the sweetness of his love. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 23 August 2023