

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

At 2:45 p.m. yesterday afternoon (local time), one of our sisters in the Divine Providence community, Alba, Italy, was called to heaven to receive her eternal reward:

**FRANCHINI MARIA – SR. M. ALBA**  
**born in Valeggio sul Mincio (Verona), Italy, on 7 August 1932.**

Sr. M. Alba entered the Congregation in Alba on 7 Dec. 1951. After two years of formation in the Motherhouse she was sent on apostolic experience to Como, where she carried out the “propaganda” apostolate. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1955. As a young professed, she continued to diffuse the Word of God with great love to families and collectivities in the dioceses of Como, Rome and Massa.

In 1964, she responded with great generosity to the request to leave as a missionary for Africa, where, in the small community of Lagos, Nigeria, she experienced all the fatigue and privations that go hand-in-hand with a new foundation, dedicating herself joyfully to the diffusion apostolate.

In 1968, she was transferred to the British Delegation, where—except for a few short periods in Italy—she remained until 2010: more than 40 years spent sowing goodness, generosity, peace, love and fidelity to her vocation in all situations, big and small.

Stationed in the Delegation’s central house in Langley, she spent several years carrying out capillary and collective diffusion. In 1972, she was transferred to Liverpool and then lived at different times in the communities of Glasgow and Birmingham, where she worked in the book center. Sr. M. Alba spent most of her years in this Delegation carrying out a variety of services, including that of cook, above all in the Langley community. The sisters say that she was a generous, kind and sociable person; a hard worker who was always ready to help others. Although quiet by nature, she was also witty, joyful and good-humored. She loved community life and relished the chance to remain in the company of the other sisters, knitting hats, socks and scarves for them and others.

Sr. M. Alba’s generosity led her to welcome anyone in need who knocked on the door and she often took them into the kitchen to offer them breakfast. Her good heart made no distinctions with regard to culture or language: she loved everyone and offered each one a word of comfort and hope. Her simplicity and serenity were also proverbial in the community of Verona, Italy and the communities of Borgo Angelico and Via del Mascherino, Rome, where she spent several years as cook.

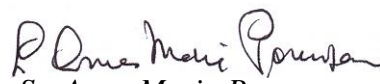
In 2010, Sr. M. Alba returned definitively to Italy and was assigned to Livorno. However, deteriorating health made it advisable to transfer her to the Motherhouse in 2013.

In the last years of her life she continued her tireless knitting and crocheting with great equanimity, always obedient to her caregivers and irradiating peace and goodness to everyone she met.

About 10 days ago, she began to show signs of discomfort and difficulty with breathing, and yesterday, while the doctor was adjusting the therapy prescribed for her, a respiratory crisis provoked her passage to eternal life.

Sr. M. Alba was ready to meet her Lord and Master, taking with her the many situations of poverty that had moved her heart. We are sure that she is now rejoicing in the beatitude reserved for those who keep the Word of God with a good and sincere heart and who walk in the way of life.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 11 March 2017