



*Faith in the resurrection opens us
to fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death”
(RoL 24)*



Today, 23 July 2015, at 7:10 a.m.

in the community of di Albano Casa Madre

SR ALFONSINA PASQUALINA FADDA

returned to the Father’s House;

she was 77 years old and 53 years of religious life.

“Magnify the Lord with me; and let us exalt his name together”. With the words of Psalm 33, which today's liturgy offers us, Sr. Alfonsina left quietly from this world, surrendering herself to the embrace of the Good Shepherd who presented her to the Father, as joyful daughter who spent her life for love until the end.

Pasqualina was born on 7 January 1938 in Orune (Nuoro). She was baptized on 16 January 1938 and grew up in a Christian family educating their children in daily work and in the simplicity of life lived with faith. Second of seven siblings, Pasqualina matured her religious vocation in the parish where she grew. When she was twenty years old, entered the Congregation 14 April 1958 at Casa madre in Albano (RM).

After the religious clothing, in contact with the life and mission of the Pastorelle, Pasqualina was admitted to the Novitiate on 2 September 1960 and on 3 September 1961 made her first profession and took the name of Sr. Alfonsina.

The early years were spent in the pre-vocational seminary of Saliceto Panaro (MO), where her characteristics of good and caring mother, an always smiling and available sister were immediately observed. In her service as a cook, even through the simple preparation of food for the young boys who were preparing for the priestly ministry among the Paulines, she was able to listen and perceive the hidden anxieties in their hearts.

She remained in Saliceto until 1965, devoting herself also to catechesis in the parish and other pastoral activities. In the same year she moved to Longa (VI), where she remained until 1968 carrying out mainly the visit to families in need, bringing everyone a word of comfort that was drawn from the Word of God which she meditated each day.

On 3 September 1966 she made her Perpetual Profession feeling *“unworthy of so great a gift ...”* and confident *“in the grace of Jesus Good Shepherd and in the help of Our Lady”*, her inseparable companions along the way.

In 1969, after reading and rereading the directives of the First General Chapter, Sr.

Alfonsina who was in S. Maria Fabriago (RA), wrote to Mother Celina expressing her desire to be a missionary, *"Before I entered, I wanted to join the Xaverian Missionaries in Parma, but my parish priest told me: 'Are you willing to do the will of God in who guides you?'. 'And I said yes immediately'. He was happy and told me: 'I'll send you to the Pastorelle, they too have mission, although not as the Xaverian.' I have always kept the desire of the mission in the heart."*

And so, Sr. Alfonsina, from 1970 to 2014, carried out her pastoral mission in various Italian communities, with the heart of a missionary who knew how to give her life and was not concerned about herself, but surrendered it to what the Good Shepherd prepared for her. A phrase of Blessed Giacomo Alberione accompanied her: *"When the divine flame burns in a soul for Jesus Christ and for persons, one wants to reach out to everyone; to shout at everyone: Brother, sister, be saved!"*

With this heart, Sr. Alfonsina lived her ministry in Bevazzana (UD), Sestri Levante (GE), Gizzeria (CS), Pescara, Pannarano (BN), Ricadi (VV) Roma - Axa, Avellino, Oristano, Castanea (CT) . Even the years of break for study purposes at Albano in 1971-1972 and then for the Course in Pastoral Theology from 1979 to 1981, she lived them with interest and the desire to deepen the pastoral charism to better serve the people of God and announce salvation to all. She was capable to smile at her own self, therefore she faced every situation with a delicate sense of humor, which made her pleasing in relations and manifested a simple and profound intelligence.

In these 40 years of life in the pastoral ministry, Sr. Alfonsina, devoted with great generosity to teaching in the kindergarten, visit to families, the care of young people through catechesis and also the animation of the religious community as superior, always attentive to the needs of the Congregation. She wrote in 1975: *"For me it is important to love each other, to commit ourselves to edify one another."* She loved prayer and community life; treated the sisters well, making herself loved by all and always putting herself at the last place.

Visited by sickness while carrying out her mission in Castanea, Sr. Alfonsina, welcomed every trial with serenity and relied on the Lord with gratitude for everything and always with a smile. The Parkinson's disease first, and then the progressive cerebral ischemia gradually reduced her possibility to be autonomous. Therefore in December 2014, she was constrained to go to Casa madre in Albano to receive the appropriate care for her increasingly precarious health situation.

Until the end, with a meek gaze and full of goodness which has characterized her entire life as a Pastorella, Sr. Alfonsina said her thanks to the Lord of life, the "thank you" which during the Canonical visitation of 2008, she expressed thus: *"Thanks to the Lord, the Giver of all good, for all that you gave me and has given us. I hope that something good remains. The light of baptism, the light invoked and given to us, is a precious gift to treasure and donate in our ministry. Let us always remember with faith, courage, humility and enthusiasm the passage of Jesus in our lives."*

Thank you, Sr. Alfonsina, for leaving us an example of life donated for the glory of God and for the salvation of his children, especially the little ones. This is well testified by one of your student in Castanea: *"... in me he planted his seed, the seed of the knowledge of Jesus, I Sr. Alfonsina will never not forget it."*

We too, Sr. Alfonsina will not forget you. Now that you enjoy fully the communion of the Saints, intercede for us all.

Sr. Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 23 July 2015
St. Bridget of Sweden, Co-patroness of Europe