

Dear Friends

It is with immense sadness that we write to inform you of the death yesterday of Victoria Munsey, vice chairperson of the Supervisory Board. Victoria, who represented the Diaconia Valdese from Italy, had been suffering from illness for sometime now and her passing although sad, was peaceful due to her fortitude and faith.

Victoria, born on the 6 June 1948 in the USA, was an adopted Italian who developed a career as a trainer, coach and facilitator in Italy for many years. She was also an enthusiastic volunteer, being vice chair of the board of the Diaconia Valdese until last year and being a member of the Eurodiaconia Supervisory Board since 2015, laterally serving as vice chair since 2019.

She enjoyed living in her beloved Torre Pellice but appreciated regular trips back to the USA to see family and friends, usually going each summer. She kept a keen eye on politics in both America and Europe and wrote particularly about the Trump years (it would be fair to say she was not a fan) in some Protestant newspapers. In Torre Pellice she enjoyed walking and taking a regular coffee in the town and was very much appreciated by a wide circle of friends there and further afield. She was committed to her local Valdensian parish and took great comfort in her faith during her illness.

Victoria was a smart, funny, kind and loving person. Among the staff at Eurodiaconia her hospitality when visiting the Diaconia Valdese was legendary! She looked for the best in people and wanted to be supportive where she could and reinforce success. She also enjoyed a good glass of wine and a chat and we have many fond memories of doing just that together at Eurodiaconia meetings or elsewhere.

I (Heather) had the privilege of being in touch with Victoria in her final days and was able to share, I hope, some of the love that many felt and still feel for her and I was both heartened and amazed by her strength in the face of a challenging diagnosis. She still had her sharp wits, even in her last weeks, and one of our last conversations was about changes to churches across Europe. Just one week ago we talked about how she felt

knowing that her time was short and she told me she had such peace about her life and about this next journey.

As we mourn Victoria and all she gave us we also think of her sister in the USA, her nephews and her close friends in the USA and in Italy who mourn her daily presence in their lives. It is anticipated that Heather will join them in laying Victoria to rest when funeral details are known and we will take time at our AGM in April to remember all she brought to our network. If anyone would like to send messages to her friends and family please feel free to send them to Heather who will ensure they are passed on.

Go in peace Victoria, a good and faithful servant, you were loved by us.

Olli Holmstrom

Chairperson - Eurodiaconia

Heather Roy

Secretary General