



Dear Sisters,

Today, January 14, 2017, in the Divine Master community of Albano Laziale (Rome), at 11:50 AM, the Lord invited to the eternal wedding banquet our sister

SR. M. ASSUNTA - ANGELA VACCA
born on December 30, 1946, in Tortoli (NU).

Angela entered the Congregation in Rome on December 8, 1966. In her request for admission to the Congregation, she presented the underlying motives that would sustain her journey as a Sister Disciple: *“For some years I have had the desire to consecrate myself to the Lord. I have known the Sister Disciples for about a year; through a brochure I was able to deepen my understanding of their beautiful mission. I was especially struck by the perpetual Eucharistic adoration and their simplicity. Humbly I ask to be accepted into the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. I promise, with divine grace, to be faithful. I am grateful for your kindness. Regards and prayers”* (Toroli, November 21, 1966).

For Angela, when she went to Rome for the spiritual exercises, the meeting with Father James Alberione in 1966 proved to be fundamental. The Founder asked her: *“When are you coming to join us?”*

The flame of the prayer of adoration would enlighten and sustain her journey of life, which was not always easy. After the novitiate she made her first profession on August 6, 1969, and the perpetual profession on February 29, 1976, in Tortoli, her native place. She was able to attend to her theological formation with a course in religious sciences, completing a diploma in 1975 as a religion teacher.

Gifted with practical abilities, she carried out her apostolate primarily in the Pauline houses, in the kitchen or the workrooms of various communities: Bari, Milan, Ariccia, Albano, Catania, and Rome, where she was also stationed before her health worsened, in the final stage of her life. In the Divine Master houses, with various responsibilities, she was in Bologna, Palermo, Centrale, Cagliari, and Turin. Thanking Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General, for the assistance given by the Congregation during her absence from the community to assist her elderly father, who died at the age of 96, she wrote: *“May the Lord bless you always for what you did for me and my family; understanding our needs and allowing me to assist my father”* (2012).

Sr. M. Assunta, proud of herself, loved the apostolate entrusted to her and fulfilled it with generosity, intelligence and love, as well as sensitivity for the Pauline brothers. To the extent possible, she desired to participate actively in the life of the local Church and found the way to be involved in some ecclesial events. Then the disease arrived unexpectedly. In June of 2014 she was diagnosed with breast cancer that had already metastasized to the bones. The various attempts at hormonal therapy, the only means possible, only slowed the progress of the disease. Her condition worsened rapidly in the last weeks, until her death caused by cardiac insufficiency. The community of Albano was beside her, almost like a wedding party accompanying her in the transition from this world to the Father. Mary Most Holy, on this Saturday of the month of January, accompanied her to the eternal wedding feast.

Sr. M. Assunta, the Bridegroom whom you sought as the ultimate Good of your life has arrived. Remember the sisters of your last community, the brothers of the Society of Saint Paul, and our Congregation journeying toward the 9th General Chapter! Rest in peace and live forever in the Most Holy Trinity!

S. H. Paolo Mancini