



Today, December 27, 2019, at 6:00 AM on the Feast of Saint John, the Apostle and Evangelist, we received the news from the community of Albano Laziale (RM) of the completion of the earthly journey of our sister

**SR. M. CLARICE - GLÓRIA DA CONCEIÇÃO DA SILVA**  
**born on May 25, 1931 in Cernada, S. João de Areias (Portugal).**

Glória entered the Congregation in Lisbon on September 18, 1952, at a time in which our presence in Portugal was taking its first steps (1947). She was sent to Alba for the novitiate and she made her first profession in Rome on March 25, 1955, because of the transfer of the novitiate house: *«On April 9, Feast of the Sorrowful Mother, the novices left Alba, Casa Madre, with joy and emotion. Their destination had a sacred, glorious, powerful name: Rome. They arrived there in the evening and entered the General House toward 10:00PM. The professed sisters awaited them in the courtyard while the late evening held a sense of expectation and joy. The Novices are now with us and they have brought their characteristics of prayer and happiness. This is a new grace for our Institute. Besides the Reverend Primo Maestro, the Pope makes us feel more "Roman", that is, more Catholic. This will certainly be advantageous to the formation. In fact, they are in the happy condition of being able to live better our name as Pious Disciples»* (Information Bulletin, *Divin Maestro*, May 1954).

Following religious profession, Sr. M. Clarice returned to Portugal and remained there for barely two years. She then went to Saint Paul in Alba, and then to the Saint Paul House in Rome, where she remained until her perpetual profession, which took place on March 25, 1960. It can be said that Europe would become her new homeland. After several months in Sanfrè, she was sent to Nice (France) dedicated to the *propaganda*, in order to find benefactors for the works of the Institute. From 1961 until 1964, she was in Zalla (Spain) offering her service in the kitchen. In fact, it is this constant apostolic factor that returns in almost all of her assignments: cook or kitchen. Upon her return to Italy, she was in Rome SP (1966), in Ariccia (1967), in Alba Casa Madre (1968), then once again in *Nogent sur Marne*, France (1969); in Bordighera (1972), in Turin DM (1975); since 1986 she was the cook in Albano DM. Jesus Master, who called her to himself on this day in which we celebrate the feast of the Apostle of love, would have applied to her what he said in the Gospel: *«Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink ...Then the righteous will answer him and say: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?" ...And the king will say to them in reply: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me"»* (Mt 25:34-35.37.40). For Sr. M. Clarice the kitchen was an apostolic passion: not only did she acquire experience, specialization, organization in her work and extreme quickness, she also developed sensitivity to the various health needs of the infirm through adjustments in the schedule and menu. To her ministry in the kitchen of the Albano Laziale community, Sr. M. Clarice added her precious service as a volunteer. Many persons remember her traversing the corridors of the *Regina Apostolorum* Hospital wearing a white jacket and the identifying nametag: "*volontaria*" (*volunteer*). Her afternoon rest consisted in visiting the sick in the hospital nearby. She was awaited: there arose new awareness, friendships, there she prayed and offered small acts of kindness. Upon her return, she would take her regular turn in adoration during which she spoke to the Divine Master about the persons she met. For many years she also went to the farmers' market where she showed kindness

to all those she met. In this way, she enabled others to do good works by offering their contributions to provide for the needs of the community. Since 2014, for health reasons, she resigned from the kitchen ministry for the community.

A long and painful agony brought this stage of her life to its conclusion after suffering for more than a decade with Parkinson's Disease, with its progressive debilitations. During this time she was lovingly cared for by the sisters and the staff at the infirmary in Albano. As a testament, she wrote: *«At the conclusion of my earthly passage, my desire is that everything be done in the greatest simplicity ... I want neither words nor flowers. I lived in hiddenness and I wish to depart from this world in hiddenness. The Risen Christ is our joy and our eternal life. In Paradise I will pray for all»* (January 18, 1995). We entrust to her particularly the Delegation Assembly of the Sisters in Portugal, gathered for some days of formation and evaluation, together with the desire for new and holy vocations.

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*