



Dear Sisters,

Today, June 28, 2023, at 11:30 AM, the Vigil of the Apostles Saints Peter and Paul, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), on the feast of the two Pauline patrons, the Divine Master called our sister

SR. M. PIERPAOLA – CATERINA PETTITI
Born on April 8, 1929, in (CN).

Two days after her birth, on April 10, in the parish church of Sant'Antonio (located in Baligio – Fossano), she received the grace of Baptism and was inserted into the Mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church. She was part of a beautiful and large family, filled with faith and a spirit of sacrifice. Despite the fact that in her adolescence she had known the risky situations of the Second World War, she participated actively in the life of the parish, in which her vocation to the religious life matured. A few months after the conclusion of the war, on September 25, 1945, at the age of sixteen, she entered the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Alba. Many young women from the area had entered the “Casa San Paolo” and the encounter with the man of God, Fr. James Alberione, was an excellent vocational attraction. The Pastor, Fr. Stefano Maria Gerbaudo, introduced her: *«Miss Caterina Pettiti has always shown good conduct, dedicating herself also in the parish apostolate. I just make a vow and pray that she may be a holy religious».*

All of the stages of her formation took place in Alba where, upon completion of the novitiate, she made her religious profession on April 4, 1948 and her perpetual profession on April 4, 1953.

Those responsible for the formation underscored her desire to make progress in doing good. In her request for the renewal of vows, she wrote: *«I am presenting my request for the renewal of vows. Humbly, and knowing more than before, that I am not worthy of such a privilege. I ask pardon of Jesus and also of you, Madre Maestra, for all that until now was not pleasing to God in my religious life. I promise to work seriously to acquire a true religious spirit under every aspect and to remain confident in the divine mercy».* She emphasized her desire to do everything well so that each day of her religious life might be lived in a more complete and generous offering to Jesus. In this determination, she drew strength and energy from an intense liturgical-Eucharistic prayer life, which she continued for herself and for the communities.

Her profound sense of belonging to the Congregation, already acquired at the beginning of her journey, rendered her suitable for the accompaniment of young women in vocational discernment. She fulfilled this ministry in Milan while also accompanying the candidates in their initial steps in the house.

After perpetual profession, she continued this service in Catania for three years. She was then appointed as collaborator in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers in Turin (1956), Milan (1957), Paris (1958). She returned to Alba in 1961, where she was responsible for the Juniors. In 1962, she was local superior in Lisbon (Portugal) for one term and then, after a period of time in Alba Casa Madre, in 1966 she was appointed local superior at Centrale di Zugliano (VI). Upon completion of the mandate, she was asked to fulfill various ministries: collaborator at AISC (Italian Association of Saint Cecilia) in Rome in 1969, nursing assistant in Sanfrè (1970), in 1972 at the Liturgical Center in Turin. Then, for various terms, she was local superior: in Lisbon (1975); in Turin (1978), in Bordighera (1980), in Lisbon (1983) and a year later she returned to Centrale di Zugliano (1984), in Genoa (1988). At the conclusion of her stay in Lisbon, she entrusted the evaluation of her service to the goodness of God and wrote: *«Time passes, and there is a greater sense of the provisory nature of things, of persons and of situations. A certain and stable goal is eternity. This thought sustains and gives hope»* (Thiene, 18.11.1984 to Madre M. Lucia Ricci).

In 1994 she was in Sanfrè for various services in the community and at the switchboard when requested. For some years she also collaborated in the care of her sister, the mother of her niece, Sr. M. Timotea Tonello, who was a missionary in Congo during those years. *«I want to thank you for your kindness to Timotea by welcoming her mother and allowing me to care for her. I will place an intention that Jesus Master will reward you with all the blessings and graces for our Congregation and accept this service that I would like to offer to thousands of persons in need»* (To Sr. M. Paola Mancini, Sanfrè 09.11.2002).

She also had the opportunity to frequent some formative courses: the School *Mater Divinæ Gratiae* for Novice Mistresses, a course of theological formation at *Regina Mundi* (Rome). Sr. M. Pierpaola carried out every service entrusted to her with seriousness and responsibility, as well as with an attitude of availability for any task that was considered necessary for the good of the Congregation.

Suffering from various pathologies, she left us following various cerebral vascular episodes, precisely on the day in which the conclusion of our 10th General Chapter took place. Thus the Divine Master reminds us again to keep our eyes fixed on what is essential in life. May the Pauline expression: *«I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me»* (cf. *Gal 2:19-20*) be the goal of our journey and the subject of our proclamation! Let us entrust to Sr. M. Pierpaola the post-Chapter period with the guidelines that will be offered to walk in unity as a family!

S. H. Paolo Mancini