



Dear Sisters,

Today, July 22, 2024, Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, the Divine Master appeared to our sister and called her by name in the heart of the night, at 1:30 AM:

SR. M. OLIMPIA – MARIA MUSUMECI
born on February 3, 1939 in Santa Maria di Licodia (CT).

Maria received the gift of Baptism on March 12, 1939, in the parish of Maria SS. ma del Carmelo. The fifth child, with three brothers and a sister, she was educated in the faith by her father Alfio and mother Concetta Greco in a parish characterized by a strong love for the Virgin Mary. The pastor testified to the support of the parents regarding their daughter's choice to follow the Lord, despite initial opposition. Raised in an atmosphere in which the nature is rich in scents and fruits, especially citrus fruit, Maria was formed with a gaze open to beauty and with the smile of one who knows how to offer herself as a gift until the end of her days, even in sickness. Overcoming the resistance of her parents, she entered the Congregation in Catania on February 21, 1961, and then continued her initial formation in Alba (CN) until the novitiate, which took place in Rome. She made the religious profession on March 25, 1964, for which she gave thanks, in June of this year, for 60 years of profession, together with her companions of the novitiate.

In the first years of temporary vows, she is in Alba, for the embroidery, then in Genoa for various services, in Catania at the Liturgical Apostolate Center, then in Rome at San Paolo Film. In the requests for renewal of the vows, she reaffirms her joy for her choice and belonging to Jesus Master.

After perpetual vows, made in Catania on September 8, 1969, she offered her service at the Center for *Souvenirs* in the Grotto at Saint Peter's in the Vatican, from 1969 to 1978. Then, in 1978, she exercised the ministry as Local Superior in Palermo, and in 1983, she was at the Center in Saint Mary Major, where she was also the councilor for the community. From 1986 to 1991, she was again at the Center for *Souvenirs* at Saint Peter's, she then fulfilled the ministry of collaborator or responsible in various Liturgical Apostolate Centers: in Florence, Rome at Saint Mary Major, in Rome *Regina Apostolorum*, in Palermo, where she was also Vice-Superior. In this work she had acquired some ability from her family, which managed a store.

She was attentive to relationships, with special attention to the priests, who were very grateful to her.



On July 3, 2023, she was transferred to the Provincial House in Rome following the diagnosis of peritoneal carcinoma and, on June 8, 2024, she was transferred to the Beato Timoteo Community to receive suitable care for her illness. Sr. M. Olimpia accepted her situation with serenity, without ever leaving aside prayer and the community life. Only a few days ago, praying beside the body of Sr. M. Battistina, she commented to a sister about the need for new vocations: the sister encouraged her to make of her life an offering for the vocations and for the mission of the Congregation.

Sr. M. Olimpia was brief in her writings, but always manifested an interest in the needs of the Congregation and committed herself to pray for them. Her attitude was that of a continual offering of herself, as well as dedicating herself to the simple tasks of the Liturgical Apostolate. Last night, it was suggested that she receive the Anointing of the Sick, which she accepted with serenity. Following the temperate but rich liturgy of the Sacrament, Sr. M. Olimpia consigned herself to the heavenly Bridegroom and went to meet him in peace. The liturgical climate was already that of the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, precisely on this day. She was also called by name: “Mary!” and made her final profession of faith by responding Yes! “Rabbuni, my Master, I am coming!”. Mary Magdalene incarnates the unconstrained logic of the love for the Lord. Only unconditional love can change us, only the intense love of Christ makes of us new persons. It makes us disciples capable of love; only love heals and restores.

Let us ask Sr. M. Olimpia to pray for us and for all those called, that we may have the courage to respond to Love until death.

Rome, July 22, 2024

Sr. M. Paola Mancini
Sr. M. Paola Mancini