



*Dear Sisters,*

Today, July 26, 2024, at 1:30 AM in the community of Sanfrè (CN), the Bridegroom arrived for the eternal wedding feast of

**SR. M. ELVIRA - AGNESE PERLINA**  
**born on August 31, 1930 at Castel d’Azzano (VR).**

Her father, Enrico, and mother, Elvira Visentini, provided immediately for her baptism, which took place the day after her birth, on September 1.

The family setting was one of profound faith and examples of Christian life, which facilitated the acceptance of the Lord’s call. While still an adolescent, she entered the Congregation in Alba on July 22, 1942. In this regard the sister narrates: *«At 12 years of age, Sr. M. Luisa Perlina – her aunt who is a Sister Disciple- gave me a book on the life of Saint Theresa. It was a light, an interior force to follow her example. Sr. M. Luisa († Dec. 10, 2000) was my guardian angel. She accompanied me at my entrance into the Congregation. Since I entered at Alba, she was near me for some years and always advised me; she helped me with her advice and suggestions. My initial formation was strong, convincing, for five years as an aspirant»* (Feb. 5, 2012). The years of her formative journey corresponded to the complex time of the Second World War and the Paschal journey for the institutional definition of our Congregation. The period of novitiate corresponded to the spring of our resurrection: 1948/1949. She made her profession on March 25, 1949: *«At my first profession, even though it was for one year, in my mind it was for my entire life»*. This was followed by her first apostolic experiences, as a cook in Cinisello and in Alba with the Society of Saint Paul. She made her perpetual vows in Alba on March 25, 1954. In 1961, she would be followed in the vocation of the Sister Disciples by her sister, Sr. M. Enrica, currently in Sanfrè.

Shortly after her perpetual profession, Sr. M. Elvira received the gift of being a missionary. She was asked to go, together with Sr. M. Costantina Caron, for a new foundation in Santiago, Chile, in response to the insistent request of the Pauline brothers, that had already been expressed for some years. They arrived in Santiago on January 28, 1955, after having landed in Argentina by ship and having encountered M. M. Scolastica Rivata there. Blessed James Alberione sent his blessing to them in these words: *«May the Divine Master guard you in your mission: be always the Pious Disciples of Jesus Master. Introduce the adoration well. Good vocations come from Heaven; pray. I bless you. I am pleased with you. M. Alberione»*.



It certainly could not have been easy for these young sisters of 24 and 25 years of age to find themselves beyond the mountainous columns of the Andes, which appear to divide the world. The missionary dream, which became a reality with the arrival of other sisters, allowed them to invent new ways to encounter the young women of the place, to draw them to the vocation of the Sister Disciple, and to see shoots spring up locally to the point of giving life to the current Delegation.

Sr. M. Elvira carried out the mission in Chile in various stages, facing the various difficulties among which were the frequent earthquakes, typical of the place. She left for Italy in 1968, where she would be in the workroom in Bari and in Vicenza. She returned to Chile in 1971 as local superior, at the Society of Saint Paul. Once again in Italy from 1975 to 1988: she would be in the communities of Alba, Cinisello, Vicenza, Florence as local superior, Albano and Centrale. In 1988 she returned to her beloved land of Chile to the new reality of the House for Priests in Concepcion. She would remain there until 2010.

She definitively returned to Italy, in September of the same year she was sent to the novitiate community, then to the youth center. A jovial person, she was able to share her daily life with the sisters in the joys and in the difficulties, and succeeded in placing at the service of the journey of the young women the experience of life, at times hard, that she had taught them. She was capable of mediating and of encouraging.

She was a lively and wise person; a person of faith and of prayer who knew how to give wise counsel to the young in formation and also taught them how to cook. The young women loved her, and her missionary witness was formative for their journey.


In 2012 she was transferred to the house of Sanfrè, of which she affirmed: *«I feel a predilection in finding myself in this Eucharistic-missionary community»*. Her spiritual life was directed toward love, reparation, supplication; she felt very serene, peaceful and *very free* interiorly. *«What makes me free as a Sister Disciple is the spirit of prayer, the love of the Eucharistic Jesus. The daily adoration has given me a great deal of strength in the journey of following in the joys and in the difficulties, and even today this prayer sustains and guides me»*.

Interviewed at the anniversary of her 70 years of profession (2019), she affirmed: *«I was a missionary in Chile for 38 years, I was offered the possibility of knowing the beauty of the Priestly Apostolate and to accompany our Pauline brothers, especially those most of need of assistance with prayer, offering. I will never cease to give thanks to the Divine Master for this experience»*.

Following respiratory insufficiency, today, the Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, she fell asleep in the Lord.

Sr. M. Elvira, from Heaven, continue to love our sisters of Chile and ask the Divine Master for the gift of new vocations!

Rome, July 26, 2024

  
Sr. M. Paola Mancini