



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that last night, August 13, 2007, at 11:30 PM (local time), in the community of Fresno (USA), the Lord called our dear sister

SR. M. CUNEGONDA - MARLETTA GIOVANNA
born in San Giovanni Galermo (Catania), on April 12, 1916
to the eternal wedding banquet.

Sr. M. Cunegonda entered the Congregation at the age of 15 in the community of Catania (DM) on October 28, 1931, in response to the joy and enthusiasm she strongly felt in her adolescent heart to the call. She then joined the group of her companions in the Mother House (Casa Madre) in Alba to begin her formation. Here she spent the time of Novitiate, which concluded with the religious profession on August 20, 1934. With her open and joyful personality, filled with physical and spiritual energy, the young Sr. M. Cunegonda was sent to Paris. She returned to Rome in 1940 to make her perpetual profession with her companions on August 20.

After a short missionary experience in Paris (France), Sr. M. Cunegonda left to begin her great missionary adventure in the United States. In the May 1950 issue of the internal bulletin, *Divin Maestro*, it is written: *Mother Mary Annunziata Micca together with Sr. M. Cunegonda went to New York with a beautiful and well-defined purpose: "for the Madonna". Their steps and efforts represent the active contribution of our Congregation toward the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles. This journey will be greatly meritorious for them and a great blessing for all the Pious Disciples since the Queen of Apostles, who always treats her children tenderly, will lovingly watch over these two sisters who work for his house with so much sacrifice*". Sr. M. Cunegonda prolonged her mission on American soil, remaining there enthusiastically and generously for the rest of her life.

After a brief stay in San Francisco, in 1951 she went to the diocesan seminary in Fresno to offer her services for many years. She then served as local superior in the San Jose community for two terms. She then worked in the communities of Boston and in Monrovia, where the sisters had transferred temporarily as they awaited the inauguration of the new house [in Los Angeles] which took place in May 2007.

For health reasons she was transferred to the Fresno community on July 22. During these last few days she was hospitalized at St. Agnes Hospital for a severe case of pneumonia. When her situation worsened, she asked to be allowed to return to the community, a desire which was fulfilled. The community prayerfully accompanied her serene and peaceful passage. It was clear that Sr. M. Cunegonda was pleased to be surrounded by the sisters with whom she had professed to serve the Divine Master "in union of spirit and of action", in this life, as we await the final reunion in eternity.

In one of her last letters to Mother M. Paola Mancini (1997), then Superior General, she expressed herself in this way: *"In my littleness I must confess that the Lord has been very good to me. He has dealt with me kindly, performed many miracles, an abundance of grace in following my vocation. When necessary he carried me in his arms, so that I would not trip. What goodness: ... I have always been happy in my vocation and my heart is filled with joy. With him, in him sanctify the mind and thoughts while remaining in the school of the Divine Master. He tells me about the experience of the Father. Welcome with diligent love everything he gives me throughout the day, even the thorns on the rose. Offer, offering myself with him to the Father! Jesus Host is my strength, my sanctity. I abandon myself in him as Mary did. I trust in the infinite goodness of God"*.

Once again, in the epilogue of this sister's life, we see the good fruits of a life spent entirely for the glory of God, for his Kingdom, for the good of the Pauline Family and of our Congregation, which she loved intensely and to which she was very proud to belong.

Sr. M. Cunegonda worked, struggled, suffered and offered that Mary, Queen of the Apostles, might be known, loved and implored in the sanctuary dedicated to her. We love to think that now the Mother of God, at the vigil of the celebration of her assumption into heaven, accompanied her to her final meeting with the Divine Master.

May you live and rest in God, dear sister, and intercede for us. We would especially like to entrust to you the needs of your circumscription, the young in formation and the sisters who are preparing for their perpetual profession.

Sr.M. Gabriella Giannini, Secretary General