



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 13, 2018, on the luminous solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, at 12:30 PM, from the community of Sanfrè, our sister departed for the eternal Passover

SR. M. LUIGIA - GIACOMINA ALESSIATO
born on November 21, 1934, in Savigliano (CN) - Italy.

This is how Sr. M. Luigia briefly recounts her vocational story: *With the death of my father when I was six months of age, my mother heroically raised the three of us, educating us in the human and Christian values. At the age of six, Giovanna, my sister, was the babysitter for my brother, Mario, and myself, and we got into all kinds of mischief. As we grew up we all began to work to help my mother. At the age of twenty I was dating a boy who was respectful and good, then I made the Spiritual Exercises in Alba (CN), which changed my life. With the counsel of my mother, I decided to walk to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Cussanio (Fossano) to implore light for my life. A friend came with me. And Our Lady helped us: she is a member of a secular institute and I am a Sister Disciple.* She entered the Congregation on October 27, 1957, and she allowed herself to be guided by the sisters in charge who advised her: *Just allow Jesus to complete the picture he began.* She did this throughout her life. She made her first religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1960, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1965, also in Rome, in the presence of Blessed James Alberione, as was often the case at that time.

In her first years of religious life, she obtained a license as a professional nurse, and she would carry out this ministry most of her life, often together with that of local superior, in our communities and in those of the Society of St. Paul: Society of St. Paul in Rome and Regina Apostolorum, Genoa, Albano Laziale, Cinisello Balsamo, Ariccia, Society of St. Paul in Alba, and other cities. In her correspondence with the superiors, there is an evident joy in her vocation and especially the awareness of responding faithfully to the great gift she received from God. From 1983, for some years, she was at the James Alberione House in Nice (France), a community that welcomed diocesan and religious priests who were sick and elderly. She fulfilled her responsibilities as a nurse with professional kindness and sensitivity that would characterize her from the beginning and for which she was remembered by all who knew her. "Mother" – she wrote in a letter – "I can honestly tell you that I am always more content, not only to be at the service of the priesthood in Nice, but for having been chosen by God for his service. (...) aside from that which requires sacrifice, she experienced great joy in seeing the priests content and receiving the benefits of our care. The words of the Founder often come to mind: *Do everything you need to do like Our Lady did for Jesus*". Attentive and concerned for all, capable of seeing and foreseeing the difficulties and needs of the sick person, she intervened in a manner that was both delicate and secure so as to create trust and transmit care for life. This amiability and demeanor produced a secure therapeutic effect together with the medications that were administered.

At the root of this characteristic trait there was certainly a profound interior life, a prayer life characterized by love for the Eucharist, for the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, who always sustained her, even when her physical energies were declining as she passed from an active role in nursing to a passive form, in the awareness of the sicknesses that progressively debilitated her.

This morning, on the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, as the entire Church looked up to heaven following Jesus as he returned to the Father, Sr. M. Luigia was called to follow him in a definitive manner. This last call, which to us seemed sudden, was certainly not unexpected for her who, aware of her declining health for some time, prepared as a faithful disciple of her Lord and Master. With the worsening of her symptoms, she was rushed to the Hospital of Alba (CN), where her condition declined rapidly, comforted by the prayer of the priest. Now the Divine Master has brought to completion the picture he began in her with his masterpiece: the beatific vision of the Face of God.

Sr. M. Luigia Alessiato