



Dear Sisters,

This morning, February 9, 2015, at 4:00 AM, in the Community of Sanfrè (Cuneo), the Lord called to eternal life our sister,

SR. M. AUGUSTINA GIUSEPPINA CAROLINA CERRI
born on January 28, 1926, in Castelleone (Cremona).

Giuseppina entered the Congregation in Alba (Cuneo) at the blossoming age of twenty, on March 23, 1946, while the Institute was in the midst of great trials, but the vocational grace was more powerful than any human calculations. She was introduced by the pastor, Father Arturo Galbiati, in a manner that was very promising: *"The young Cerri Giuseppina spent her youth in this parish, generously dedicating herself to every type of good work and offering good example by her humble and obedient conduct founded upon a profound and felt piety. In faith. (Novate Milanese, March 16, 1946).* She completed her formation in Alba, where she entered the novitiate immediately following the *"Decretum Laudis"* of the Institute, on March 24, 1948, and made her religious profession on March 25, 1949. In her request for admission to perpetual profession, she expressed her desire for fidelity: *"confident in the divine grace that I may be faithful until death"*. She made her perpetual profession on March 25, 1954, always in Alba.

Her apostolic life began with the assignment to the kitchen and embroidery in Alba and as assistant to the aspirants. In 1952, she was responsible for the Sacred Art department in Cinisello Balsamo (Milan). In 1956 she was called to be a missionary overseas. At the end of May, together with Sr. M. Leonella Buffo, they boarded the ship "Marco Polo", travelling for a month toward Santiago, Chile, docking at Valparaiso. There they were joined by two other pioneer-sisters, Sr. M. Costantina Caron and Sr. M. Elvira Perlini, who were already working at Saint Paul House. They remained together in the Pauline house for about six months, until they rented the Divine Master house in the center of the city. In the meantime, with initiative, they began a modest Liturgical Apostolate, *"La Proveedora del Culto"* at the Episcopal Curia in Santiago. Given the flexibility of the beginnings, in 1959, Sr. M. Augustina went to Buenos Aires as the aspirant and postulant formator. In 1960 she was asked to go to São Paulo, Brazil, as formator. She remained there until 1963, the year in which she went to Caxias do Sul as local superior. Then, given the similarity of the language, she was transferred to Camarate (Lisbon, Portugal) as local superior. In 1969 she was temporarily at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Paris, France. After six months, she was transferred to Vicenza, Italy, in the workroom of the Saint Paul House. In 1975 she returned to France, in Toulouse, working in the kitchen and in the laundry. From 1980 to 1983 she was the porter in Milan. She then returned to France, to Nogent sur Marne, where she worked in the laundry for five years. In 1988 she returned definitively to Italy: first in Palermo, then in Cinisello, in Bordighera, where she assisted in the workroom or in various services. In 2009, due to infirmity, she was transferred to the community of Sanfrè.

From her various experiences emerges a strong temperament, resistant to fatigue and, at the same time, kind and generous. She distinguished herself for her generosity and hospitality. Always evident was her profound spirit of prayer which enabled her to be creative and take initiative in the apostolate. Her journey of sanctification took her through contact with various people, cultures, and languages. All of this was possible because of the unity in her interior life. It is significant that the conclusion of her life is within the context of the General Chapter of the Society of Saint Paul, on the vigil of the memorial of St. Scholastica, in which we celebrate the grace of our foundation, characterized by mission.

Sr. M. Augustina, surrounded by prayer, the presence and the care of the sisters, died of pulmonary edema after several years of suffering from Alzheimer's disease and, more recently, a cerebral hemorrhage. Entrusting her to the mercy of the Heavenly Father, we ask her to intercede for vocations and for the missions in those nations in which, during her earthly pilgrimage, she placed not only her feet, but also her heart!

S. H. Paolo Mancini