



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, April 17, 2016, Good Shepherd Sunday and 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, in the Divine Master Community of Palermo, at 11:30 PM, the Lord came to call our sister

**SR. M. CRESCENZIA GIUSEPPA SPINA,
born on March 28, 1935, in Palermo.**

Giuseppa entered the Congregation in Catania on May 24, 1955, at the blossoming age of 20. In his introduction, her pastor emphasized some of her personal qualities: *“irrepressible and edifying; her moral and civil conduct has been exemplary, she received daily Communion and dedicated herself to the education of the children in the parish.”* Following the novitiate, she made her first religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1958, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1963, also in Rome. The reports for admission to the various stages underscore her sense of responsibility and her love for the Congregation. When asked to express her aptitudes, she affirmed: *“With a sincere heart, I propose, with the help of divine grace, to observe faithfully the Constitutions of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, to be disposed to accept whatever place, ministry, even the humblest work, according to the specific aim of the Sister Disciples, that obedience, expressed through the superiors, may ask of me”* (Rome, March 22, 1958).

After profession, Sr. M. Crescenzia, a licensed tailor, was asked to place her talent and specific preparation at the service of the apostolate. In fact, the initial transfers were motivated by this service in tailoring: in the communities of the Mother House in Alba (1958), then in Turin, Rome, Naples, Milan, once again in Turin, and from 1965 to 1967 in Lisbon (Portugal). Upon her return to Italy, from 1967 to 1968, she was at Saint Mary Majors (Rome), always working as a tailor. Then, also for health reasons, her apostolate took a new turn: she was transferred to the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Catania, where she remained from 1968 to 1997. In this community she was also the local councilor. She spent almost half of her life as a Sister Disciple in Catania, leaving in the hearts of those who met her the image of a pious disciple in conformity with the Gospel. She is especially remembered by priests with whom she had a good deal of contact, she listened to them and dialogued with everyone. She was attentive to the individuals and to their needs. If a seminarian had limited financial resources, she found a way that was just and equitable to respond to his requests and satisfy his desires. In the community life, Sr. M. Crescenzia was a peaceful person, capable of cultivating interpersonal relationships and asking forgiveness when necessary. She was generous and notoriously available for any service. When she left Catania, she offered her service at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Naples for a year, spent a short time in Bari, and in 1998 she was already in the house of Palermo. There she initially assisted in the Liturgical Apostolate Center and then, for as long as her health permitted, she was the switchboard operator for the community.

In a letter to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato she wrote: *«May the Divine Master send abundant blessings upon you, upon the mission entrusted to you for our Congregation... For your every desire I offer my poor prayers and offer everything that Jesus asks of me each day”* (Palermo, June 18, 2011).

This sister experienced many trials with regard to her health: suffering from breast cancer in 1968, she underwent the necessary treatments. Other illnesses accompanied her on her journey, but she faced them all with courage, responsibility and a generous spirit of sacrifice. Ultimately, a primary form of lung cancer caused her situation to worsen and led to her death. Sr. M. Crescenzia, comforted by the Sacraments, by the presence of the priest, and the love and care of the sisters, went consciously to meet her Spouse.

A pleasing sacrifice to God, now in the presence of the Most Holy Trinity, she will continue to intercede for the priests who motivated her offering, for us, for the 9th General Chapter, the correspondence of vocations and for the gift of new shoots for the great tree of the Pauline Family!

Rest in peace and live in the joy of the eternal Easter!

S. H. Paolo Mancini