



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 19, 2016, at 5:30 PM in our community of Sanfrè (CN), the Divine Master received into eternity our sister

**SR. M. FRANCESCA ANTONIETTA CHIESA,
born in Montà d'Alba (Cuneo) on May 28, 1928.**

Antonietta lost her mother only a few months after her birth. Therefore a maternal uncle, a priest, always had a special concern for her. Upon her entrance into the Congregation in Rome on December 8, 1957, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Antonietta, who was already an adult with experience in nursing, manifested fervor and a lively desire to follow the Lord in the consecrated life. Therefore, during the year of postulancy (1958) and according to the custom of the time, she asked to be “vested in the habit of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master”, promising to be faithful to her vocation “with the help of God”. She entered the novitiate on March 24, 1959, and the following year made her first profession on March 25, 1960, at Via Portuense 739, in a large group of 46 young sisters. Having come to a fuller knowledge of “the spirit and the apostolates of the Congregation, with a conscious and decisive choice” she began the period of temporary vows, which she regularly renewed. In her requests for admission she always manifested “joy in the vocation” and the desire “to be always faithful to Jesus Master”.

Progressing gradually in her personal work, in the assimilation of the specific values of the life of the Sister Disciple, and in the love for the Congregation, she made the perpetual profession on March 25, 1965, always in Rome. She would remain in Rome until 1967, offering her collaboration in the Liturgical Apostolate Center at Saint Mary Majors until she was sent to Sanfrè as the local Superior.

In January of 1970, she left as a missionary to Mexico, where she remained for about nine years, fulfilling positions of responsibility at the regional and local levels, giving new energy to the Apostolate. She took advantage of the opportunity to learn Spanish, which would prove to be very useful when in August of 1979, she was sent to Santiago, Chile.

At the end of June 1982 she returned to Italy definitively. There she was in Alba and then in Bordighera (1990) as responsible for the Liturgical Apostolate Center, where she exercised her intelligence, her capacity for organization, and apostolic zeal.

In 2001 she was accompanied to Sanfrè for health reasons. She lived this final obedience continuing to show an impetuous and gruff demeanor that hid the intimate suffering she endured since infancy.

In the final stage of her life she suffered from a gradual increase in cognitive disturbances. Her situation progressively worsened until she completely lost her independence and was no longer able to communicate with the outside world. Her life was extinguished silently, just as she lived in silence for years. By the strength of the communion that binds us to the Lord and to each other, we believe that her solitude was inhabited by the Angels of God, whom he always places at our side, and that these Angels today, Thursday, brought her to the throne of God, together with the Virgin Mother Mary, whom she tenderly loved and to whom she prayed every day of her life.

Rest in peace, Sr. M. Francesca, and pray for the Italian Province and for the 9th General Chapter.

Sr. M. Regina Casato