



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, August 17, 2016, at 9:15 PM, in the Divine Master Community of Palermo, in the liturgical climate of the recent Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Lord gathered another fragrant flower from the land of Sicily, calling to himself:

**SR. M. LUCIS MARIA D'AMICO,  
born in Nicosia (Enna) on March 14, 1923.**

Maria entered the Congregation in Catania on December 13, 1938, at a very young age. Her sister, Lorenza, Sr. M. Crucis, who is currently in Fresno in the USA, followed her into the Congregation the following year. She made her novitiate in Alba (CN), where she also made her first profession on March 25, 1944, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1949. In her request for admission to the perpetual profession, she wrote: *"It is the day before the eve of my perpetual profession although I consider myself as being unworthy of this grace. Despite this I have confidence and the good will to correct myself, and the grace of the perpetual profession **will enable me to reach that level of grace that Jesus has established for me from all eternity.** I now entrust myself to you that you may pronounce that yes that will be for me the word of the Divine Master. I found a vocation who wants to enter immediately in the Mother House, therefore, on Saturday 12 she will leave with us"* (Pescara, February 8, 1949).

We are confident that from Paradise, Sr. M. Lucis will obtain from the Lord of the harvest some young woman who will take her place on earth, with the same decisiveness with which she had the grace to accompany a young woman! Vocations come only from the Lord, but with our collaboration as we bear witness to the joy of the Gospel that we have received.

The first year after profession, Sr. M. Lucis is in Milan for the diffusion of the Word of God, then in Bordighera (1947) for various services, and in 1949 in the embroidery at Alba.

Some months after perpetual profession, Sr. M. Lucis was asked to become a missionary in the United States. On October 18, 1949, she left Milan in an airplane bound for New York, together with Sr. M. Benigna Bonfiglio. Initially she dedicated herself to charity and then in 1956 she is at the Society of St. Paul in New York, and in 1958 at the Pauline House in Canfield. In 1960 she is the cook at the Seminary in Fresno, California. In 1962 she is in the sewing and embroidery workroom in Staten Island, and in 1966 she returned to the workroom in Fresno and then to Boston in 1969.

Madre M. Lucia Ricci, the Superior General at that time and her novice mistress, wrote to Sr. M. Lucis: *«Several months have passed since you left (for the USA) and I trust that the **stay in America**, by the grace of God and your correspondence, **has brought you closer to him** and consequently has made your soul more luminous and pure...You are small, remain that way with much humility and you will receive the divine graces abundantly"* (Alba, May 1, 1950). Sr. M. Lucis made these words her program of life even after 1970, when she returned to Italy after twenty years as a missionary in the USA.

She went to Milan for five years, where she worked in the diffusion of the magazine *La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa* [Life in Christ and in the Church] and embroidery. From 1975 until 1984 she was in Catania assisting in the Liturgical Apostolate Center. After a brief stay in the community of Naples, she went to the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome where she was in the sewing workroom.

In a letter to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, she manifested a fundamental attitude that motivated her to accept the transfers to the various communities: *«I become immediately accustomed to the new dwelling. Wherever we go there is the living presence of the Divine Master. He never leaves us without his grace in the face of the discomforts and small difficulties I may encounter in my daily life. This gives me the motivation to go ahead in serenity and peace»* (Easter 1990). Sr. M. Lucis allowed the grace of God to work within her to the point of attaining that inner peace that comes from gradually conforming to God's plan for us, beyond our human limitations.

She left this world in peace from the community of Palermo, where she resided since 1993, with some health issues. She was bedridden for the past months following a fracture of the femur. The sisters were impressed by her serenity and constant prayer which was also manifested in her desire for Paradise. After her usual supper, her life was extinguished like a candle, in the presence of the sisters.

Sr. M. Lucis, together with the large choir of the Pauline Family of heaven, you sing the *Glory to God*, invoke the grace of sanctification for all of us as we journey toward the 9th General Chapter, and ask Jesus Master for the gift of new, holy and persevering vocations. Rest in peace!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*