



Dear Sisters,

Today, October 27, 2016, at 3:15 PM, in the Divine Master Community of Albano Laziale (RM), the Lord gathered into his eternal embrace of mercy our sister

**SR. M. ERNESTINA AGNESE CAREDDU**  
**born on February 9, 1936, in Cabras (Oristano).**

Agnese, presented by her pastor who praised her good conduct, entered the Congregation in Rome on July 5, 1956, at the promising age of 20. She had an ardent desire to offer herself generously to the Lord and to follow him completely with the fullness of love. Gifted with artistic taste and an attraction to beauty, Agnese later had the opportunity to utilize these gifts for service. She made her novitiate in Rome, her first religious profession on March 25, 1959, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1964. In her requests for admission to the various stages of the consecrated life, she manifested the joy of belonging to the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. As was the custom at the time, before religious profession Sr. M. Ernestina gave her total consent with respect to the mission by affirming *“to be always ready and willing to accept any place or ministry; adapting myself willingly and generously to every task, even the most humble, with respect to the specific aim of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master”* (Rome, September 23, 1959).

This availability became concrete in her life of discipleship. In obedience, she was sent to collaborate in the typographies of the Society of St. Paul, as part of the priestly apostolate. Thus she brought to fruition her artistic ability in the fine work of retouching. With a sure hand, she retouched the photographs published in the various Pauline magazines, renewing their color and vivacity. Together with other sisters, she fulfilled this apostolate in Rome (1959), in Alba (1960), and again in Rome (1963). In 1966 she was sent to Kinshasa (Congo) for the same collaboration with the Pauline brothers, and according to the indications of Primo Maestro, to introduce the young Congolese to this art.

Upon her return from the Congo in 1968, she went to the Souvenir shop at St. Peter's in Vatican City. In 1973, for a short time she was the local superior in Pescara and then, always as local superior, she was in Alba at the Pauline house. In 1977 she was at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Florence, and in 1978 she was the local superior in Toulouse (France). In 1984 she was the local superior at Saint Mary Major in Rome, and then again in France in Nice, Toulouse, and in 1986 at Nogent sur Marne, councilor for the delegation. In 1988 she returned to Italy to offer her contribution in the houses dependent upon the General Government; first in the Vatican, then Bethany House, and later in the General House.

Writing to Mother M. Lucia Ricci at Christmas 1989, Sr. M. Ernestina, manifested her missionary spirit: *«As you probably know I am a Vatican citizen! I am part of this community, with sisters I know well or not as well but all are dedicated to the same goal: Jesus Master! For my part, I am*

*content, pleased to collaborate at the heart of the Church on behalf of the Congregation, as a witness to the immense groups of people from every language and race that we meet each day. Certainly the way is not always easy or comfortable. Several times a day I must reconfirm and renew my efforts, especially in those moments of greater weariness. But in everything there is good will and trust that God will not abandon me”.*

Sr. M. Ernestina was entirely present in every activity and acted with determination. She had a great care for cleanliness, order and beauty, even in her surroundings. She was focused on her spiritual journey, the work on herself, that Jesus Master might become ever more the dynamic center of her life.

Exactly two years ago, in September of 2014, Sr. M. Ernestina accepted with difficulty the transfer to the infirmary in Albano for health reasons. This period was especially trying for her and her suffering increased because of her illness. In fact, in July of this year, medical tests revealed the presence of advanced intestinal cancer. Thus our sister prepared herself for this great step with full awareness, in a spirit of prayer and offering for the Congregation, for vocations and for priests, gradually preparing herself to accept the divine will.

The community of the infirmary, in the spiritual exercises during these days, accompanied and sustained her. Through the mysterious communion among the saints, she had the consolation of the sacraments, of prayer and fraternal charity, at times like a journey of reconciliation.

Sr. M. Ernestina, now that the things of this world have passed for you, intercede for us and for the entire Pauline Family. We entrust to you especially the journey of the Congregation toward the 9th General Chapter and the upcoming Provincial Chapter in Italy. Rest in peace and live in God forever!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*