



Dear Sisters,

in the heart of the night of February 9, 2017, at 1:30 AM, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), the Lord Jesus found ready for the eternal wedding feast, with her lamp burning, our sister

SR. M. OLIVIA – ELENA PIVA
born in Brugine (PD) on July 31, 1930.

Born in Northeast Italy, she was baptized on August 6, Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, in the parish in which the vocations of 5 Sister Disciples matured. On January 5, 1954, the young Elena, at the age of 24, entered the Congregation at the Mother House in Alba (CN), following in the footsteps of her sister, Sr. M. Lourdes, who was already professed for some years. In response to the question: Why did you want to enter religious life? She responded simply and, therefore with the essentials: *“To be near Jesus and to become a saint”*.

Her formative journey progressed rapidly and with regularity: at the conclusion of the novitiate, on March 25, 1956, she made her religious profession in Rome. On March 25, 1961, she made her perpetual profession, also in Rome. Primo Maestro, who presided at the Eucharistic Celebration, said in his homily to the young sisters gathered: *“This is truly a day the Lord prepared for you: for you who have chosen God, God alone, for your temporal life and for eternity. The Lord corresponds generously with his grace, according to the generosity of your heart by which you offer yourself to him. If one has truly left everything; that is, left pride, left all that the world offers, left your character, your will, your selfishness, your attachments, if everything is left as you have said and protested, the Lord will be everything for you, as he desires, as he offers himself: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”*. These words would direct the path of the religious life, and Sr. M. Olivia, in her life, knew she could count on this compass. In fact, in various times, she wrote in her request for admission to the successive steps of consecration: *“I ask with profound humility to continue the formative journey, and I promise to seek the will of God in obedience to the Constitutions and to the Superiors”*.

Sr. M. Olivia spent almost her entire life in the communities of the Society of Saint Paul – Vicenza, Rome, Albano, Genoa – fulfilling her apostolate in a spirit of faith and generosity, convinced that she was living “like the Holy Mary beside Jesus”, in the details of daily life. She assumed various roles – in the kitchen, the sewing workroom, laundry, or the refectory – in silence and discretion, with a smile that communicated serenity and a spirit of communion. In 2000 she was transferred to the House of Prayer in Centrale di Zugliano (VI), until 2014, when declining health led to her acceptance in the infirmary, first in Cinisello Balsamo (MI), and then in Sanfrè. Here, surrounded by the care and prayers of the community, she was extinguished, like a candle, in silence and discretion, just as she had lived.

To her sister, Sr. M. Lourdes, we offer our nearness and prayers as we ask the Divine Master to welcome Sr. M. Olivia with his disciples in Paradise, watching over all of us in our journey toward the 9th General Chapter.

Sr. M. Michaela Ronetti