



Dear Sisters,

Today, October 27, 2017, in the DM Community of Palermo, at 5:00 AM, the Lord opened the entrance to eternity for our sister

SR. M. CLEMENZA ROSA CARONIA ANCITTA
BORN JANUARY 1, 1926, IN CHIUSA SCLAFANI (PA).

Rosa entered the House in Alba (CN) on June 25, 1950, bringing to the community the gift of her mature youth, a profound Christian formation, and that typical perfume of the *zagara* (orange blossom) from the island of Sicily. Following the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession in Alba on March 25, 1953, and her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1958. The characteristics revealed during her formative journey: *«well disposed, polite, willing, good, joyful, open; she shows much potential for the religious life and for the apostolate»*, qualified her as suitable, even as a young professed, to accompany the aspirants to the life of the Sister Disciples in Rome, in Alba, and then the novices from 1957 to 1958. In 1959 she was the sacristan in the St. Paul house in Alba. In 1961 she was transferred to Catania for the pastoral work for vocations. After a short stay in Rome, in 1965 she was appointed local superior in the St. Paul community in Bari, and in 1968 she spent a year in Ariccia. From 1969 to 1979, she was in the community of St. Mary Major, working as secretary of the AISC (Italian Association of Sacred Music). She was then transferred to the community of the Vatican switchboard, where she was the local superior from 1979 to 1982, at which time she was asked to fulfill the same role in the community of Palermo. In 1988 she was temporarily in the community of Cinisello Balsamo, working at the switchboard and offering hospitality, and in 1989 she was transferred to the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome where she served as portress, and assisted in various apostolic works.

Sr. M. Clemenza took the spiritual life to heart. She was among the first in church in the morning, to give priority to her encounter with the Bridegroom, whom she truly sought and loved. Night adoration for her was not a duty but a privilege that she never omitted for as long as her strength permitted. She dedicated time to the continual deepening of the word of the Founder and writings which illuminated growth in Christ. She was often seeking these. On the occasion of her 25th anniversary of religious profession, she received a letter from Bishop Antonio Mistrorigo, President of the AISC, where Sr. M. Clemenza had offered her services: *«Dear Sr. Clemenza, the joyous occasion of your 25th anniversary of religious profession offers me the opportunity to express my sentiments of esteem and gratitude for what you are doing for the Italian Association of Saint Cecilia. I am certain that you perceive the intense and delicate work that you are fulfilling with responsibility over the past 8 years to foster sacred music as a true apostolate... I wish you much happiness as you celebrate the jubilee of your Consecration to God and I pray that you may always remain faithful... we hope that you may continue with the same enthusiasm in the work you have undertaken»* (Rome, April 7, 1978). A delicate person, in every apostolate she showed her responsibility, availability and generosity, leaving a positive impression of her tactfulness and attention to others.

In 2006 she was transferred to the community of Palermo as an elderly sister, where she offered herself in various services for as long as her health permitted. Her health was not the best. For some years, she suffered from a herniated lumbar disc which caused intense and almost continual pain. The surgery she underwent to correct this condition was not successful and it was only through her constancy and tenacity in rehabilitation that the intensity was diminished. In her final years she suffered a progressive and continual loss of her cognitive faculties, which led her to become completely dependent upon the sisters, who were filled with charity toward her. She always retained the presence of spirit, however, to accompany the sisters in the prayer they offered beside her. In the silence of the night and comforted by the Sacraments, she serenely reached the heavenly doors.

We entrust to her intercession Sr. M. Provvidenza Raimondo, the new provincial superior, who Sr. M. Clemenza accompanied upon her entrance into the Congregation, and the entire new government, entrusted with the challenge of accompanying the communities toward the realization of the Chapter directives: **LIFE WHICH FLOWS AND RENEWS!** Sr. M. Clemenza, may the Divine Master whom you so loved and desired, welcome you now to celebrate with him in Heaven! Rest in peace and look lovingly upon the entire Congregation.

S. H. Paolo Mancini