



Dear Sisters,

Today, February 5, 2018, in the community of Albano Laziale (RM), at 3:15 PM, the Lord called to the eternal Pasch our sister

SR. M. ADRIANA – EMMA BERNARDINI
born on January 6, 1931, in Sonnino (LT).

Given that it was immediately following the war, she entered in the nearby city of Siena on September 12, 1945, at the age of fourteen. From the same location of Sonnino, about ten vocations came to the Congregation, attracted by the witness. Emma had to struggle and overcome the resistance of her family, because of her young age and a lack of appreciation for the value of consecrated life.

The novitiate was held in Alba (CN), where she made her religious profession on March 25, 1951. She made her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1956. In her request for admission she stated «*I am aware of my weakness, but I trust greatly in the Lord's goodness and mercy*» (12/27/1955). Her apostolic service was carried out primarily in the houses of the Society of Saint Paul, giving, beyond her physical energies, a tactfulness consisting in her smile and attention to the persons. Clearly she had made her own that love for priests, for the Pauline mission, that had been inculcated by the Founder. The maternal spirit Mary had toward Jesus was assumed by Sr. M. Adriana, who was called upon to collaborate with the apostles of social communication in various communities: in Alba (1955) as assistant cook, in Rome (1956) in the laundry and wardrobe. After two years in Cinisello Balsamo in sacred art, and in Ariccia as sacristan (1960.1967.1973), in Rome at Saint Paul (1965.1969.1986), for the sewing as well as in Albano (1978), in Florence (1985). In August of 2009, in a letter to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General at the time, she affirmed: «*I am content to have spent numerous years with the Paulines*»! Since 2002 she was in the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome assisting in the laundry for as long as her health permitted. She was then transferred to the Blessed Timothy Community as an elderly sister and later moved to Albano.

Those who lived with this sister bear witness: she had a great sense of responsibility and punctuality in the apostolate, generous, industrious in the use of everything in the spirit of Pauline poverty, she voluntarily observed silence rather than participate in criticism of other persons, behaving as Pope Francis would say: «*no to the terrorism of gossip*». Sr. M. Adriana nurtured her apostolic life with assiduous prayer, especially through the adoration and a great love for the Blessed Mother. On the occasion of her 50th anniversary of profession, she wrote to the undersigned: «*The gift of the pilgrimage to Fatima was an intimate and moving experience in which we were all together, twelve companions of the Novitiate. Everything is a reminder to prepare ourselves for the final pilgrimage in Heaven. ...I remembered the intention you entrusted to me: the vocations in Italy. May the Lord send us many and may they replace us!* » (6/20/2001).

Some greetings show how much Sr. M. Adriana participated intimately through offering, prayer, and information in the life of the Congregation. To Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, she wrote: «*I know that you are in Brazil, I pray for you that the Lord and the Virgin Mary may always accompany you on these apostolic journeys and that every community may welcome you with goodness, to spread the true spirit of the Sister Disciple everywhere* » (Rome, 9/9/2007). «*I always remember you in my prayers. May the Virgin be near you and help you to resolve our many problems and those of the entire Congregation* » (10/5/2007). After having emphasized that she entrusted her to the Virgin Mary during her trip out of the country, she added «*and I also entrust you to Saint Paul, since he suffered and went throughout the world to preach the Gospel for the salvation of every person. So also you travel for the good of our Congregation and of our communities. May Mary be always near you to realize every project for good*» (9/10/2008).

Sr. M. Adriana concluded her life in silence in the early afternoon, following a long agony. Frail in health, her existence was marked by many pathologies, surgeries and traumatic events. In 2010 she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and thus began her psychological and physical decline, while maintaining until the end the capacity to communicate with those who assisted and cared for her with great love and care. She joined in the prayers that were suggested to her.

Sr. M. Adriana, place in the heart of Jesus Master, with the Virgin Mary, the intentions that animated you in life: the Interchapter of the Society of Saint Paul that will be held in Aparecida, Brazil, from February 15-25, the travels of the sisters of the General Government, vocations, and the steps our young in formation will be taking on February 10!

S. H. Paolo Ciancimino