



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, April 19, 2016, in the Divine Master community of Albano (RM), at 8:45 PM, the Lord showed his mercy toward our suffering sister and called to eternal life

SR. M. FLAVIA CONCETTA LIBERTO
born on August 18, 1939 in Niscemi (CL).

Concetta, a flower with the delicate but intense perfume of the orange blossoms of Sicily, came to bring aroma to the house of the Sister Disciples in Catania on August 30, 1956. A modest and simple young woman, she spoke of “silence, interior life” through her recollected demeanor.

For the initial formation, she was sent to Alba (Cuneo) and then to Rome for the novitiate. There she made her first profession on March 25, 1960, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1965. Her various requests for admission to the various stages are brief, simple, clear, and manifest an evident sense of belonging and love for the Congregation.

After profession, she began her apostolate in the kitchen of the Society of St. Paul in Alba. From there she went to Sanfre as the cook, and in 1963 she went to the tailoring workroom in Genoa. In 1964 she continued the same ministry in Rome, and then went to the workroom in the formation house of the Society of St. Paul in Rome. From there she went to the Society of St. Paul in Alba and then to Cibali, where she worked in the refectory. From 1968 to 1970 she was at the Society of St. Paul in Genoa as the cook. Then in Albano, with the adult vocations, she was responsible for the laundry. She continued this same ministry in Modena and in 1978 in Genoa. From 1992 until 2014 she was in Palermo as the cook for the Divine Master community.

She fulfilled her mission of priestly service with great love and a spirit of sacrifice. The mobility which characterized the exercise of the mission of this sister manifested an evangelical agility: “*Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals*” (Lk 10:4). The spirit of poverty distinguished the life of Sr. M. Flavia, who was capable of consuming everything to the end and have only the things that were necessary and essential. Her goodness and humble heart were expressed in her constant serenity, her smile, her sense of gratitude, and her hospitable and kind manner toward the sisters who were transferring to other locations. Prayer was the priority in her life as a Sister Disciple. It was from the Eucharist that Sr. M. Flavia drew the strength for her journey of discipleship, in the sincere search to become ever more like the Divine Master.

In 2014 she was sent to the community in Albano as an infirm sister. Already in 2010 the first signs of Parkinson’s disease began to appear. The disease progressed rapidly and became debilitating, accompanied by a great deal of suffering. Her death was ultimately caused by cardiac-respiratory insufficiency.

She was aware that the Bridegroom was coming soon and had recently spoken with the local superior about her desire to entrust her life to God who is merciful and faithful.

Sr. M. Flavia leaves us in this week in which the Church places before us the image of Jesus, the eternal Shepherd, who watches over his sheep, his Church, and the Congregation. May the life of this sister, offered to God and consumed in faith and love, continue from heaven to intercede for the perseverance of all those called, for the gift of new and generous vocations, also from the land of Sicily.

S. H. Paolo Mancini