



Dear Sisters,

Today, November 3, 2016, at 2:00 in the night, as the day was beginning to push the darkness toward the light, at our community in Albano Laziale (Rome), the Lord called to the eternal wedding banquet our sister

SR. M. ANCILLA - ANTONIETTA LECIS
born on March 25, 1939 in Villamar (Cagliari).

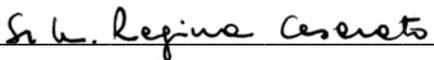
Antonietta entered the Mother House at Alba on September 10, 1956. She came from a family that was simple and rich with faith in God. Following the postulancy in Alba, on March 24, 1958, she entered the novitiate in Rome and made her first religious profession there on March 25, 1959, the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and her birthday, as part of an international group of 40 sisters. In her request for admission to the profession, addressed to the Mother General, she declared: *“I experience a profound joy in my vocation as a Sister Disciple”*. This joy of the Gospel would characterize her life and mission even in times of trials and suffering.

Her apostolate, since the first days of religious life, consisted in humble service in the kitchen, the garden, or the refectories. Thus she began her mission in the Pauline houses of Vicenza (1959) and Modena (1960). After a brief period in Rome – Portuense (1961), she was sent to the kitchen in Centrale di Zugliano and then returned to Rome - Portuense (1963). In 1965 she returned to the kitchen in Modena before her departure for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Africa) in October of 1967, where she cooked for the Pauline brothers in Lubumbashi. Her love for Africa was never extinguished. She spoke of it as if she had returned only the day before from this mission. In fact, she wrote to Mother Lucia Ricci upon receiving this obedience: *“I am truly content to depart for Africa. I offer very willingly my energies and, with gratitude, offer my prayer and the sacrifice of renunciation and whatever the Lord asks of me in this moment for that land that it may blossom in a garden of beautiful vocations as Primo Maestro and you, Mother Maestra, desire”* (October 20, 1967). It was during her stay in the Congo that Sr. M. Ancilla manifested a severe form of psychosis that forced her return to Italy and her long stay in the refectory in Rome – Portuense from 1971 – 2005, when she was transferred to Albano. Last night, not feeling well, she knocked on the nurse’s door, and upon returning to her room, a cardiac arrest ended her earthly existence.

Like the “little ones of the Kingdom”, Sr. M. Ancilla was not distinguished by any particular gifts, but she had an exceptional goodness of heart. “Meek and humble of heart” in following Jesus Master, she rarely responded aggressively to those who made observations, but remained in silence. She was always generous for the turns of adoration and in answering the door. She prayed every day for the sisters in authority.

As was her habit, for Easter and Christmas she sent her greetings to the current Mother General. In one of these notes, she wrote to Mother Paola Mancini: *“Clearly life is wonderful when it is lived for Him alone. With the cross, the suffering, I experience serenity and profound peace in my heart. I feel great hope and joy also when I do not feel well because I think of and seek only Him. It is comforting to think that at the end of life I will do some Purgatory, but then I am certain that I will see Him, Jesus, and then Paradise for eternity”*.

Sr. M. Ancilla, thank you for the gift of your simple life. Rest in peace and pray for the Italian Province and the entire Congregation in its journey toward the 9th General Chapter.


Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General