



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, May 5, 2014, at 11:45 PM, on the first Monday of May – the Marian month, in the house of Albano Laziale (Rome), our sister

**Sr. M. Aurora Maria Scellato,
born in Nicosia (EN) on September 29, 1927,**

entered into the earthly silence and opened her eyes to the eternal hymn of praise.

Sr. M. Aurora has a sister who is a Sister Disciple, Sr. M. Alba, who *“in age and in name precedes the dawn”* and lives in Fresno (USA). Another sister, Sr. M. Felicia, preceded her into eternal life (March 21, 1967).

Maria entered the Congregation on August 15, 1939, in Catania, at a very young age. After a short time, she was transferred to Alba for the initial formation and entered the novitiate on March 25, 1944. On March 25, 1945, she made her first profession in Alba. She was then sent to the Society of St. Paul in Rome. In 1948, she returned to Alba where she dedicated herself to study and various duties. On March 25, 1950, in Alba, she made her perpetual profession. In her request for admission to the perpetual profession she wrote: *“I feel my littleness and I ask that you ask the Divine Master to bestow light and mercy upon me”* (Alba, January 9, 1950). On the occasion of her 50th anniversary of profession, she wrote to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, referring to Mother M. Scholastica and Mother M. Thecla Merlo: *“The one and the other completely fulfilled the Lord’s will. I ask this of Jesus Master also for myself that I might learn every day. Ask the Madonna for this on my behalf; to become like her the Handmaid of the Lord, to offer everything to the Teacher, to the Congregation, to humanity. I am happy”*. This interior attitude of offering and conformity to the will of God, like Mary, is woven into the fabric of our sister’s life, in the fulfillment of the mission in its various expressions, in the anxious search to improve continually, including culturally.

Toward the 1960’s she frequented courses in Gregorian chant and sacred music and obtained her diploma in 1963. For Sr. M. Aurora, music became almost the rhythm of her life: a joyful style, an attitude of praise. In the years following perpetual profession, she was primarily dedicated to the Liturgical Apostolate Centers: in Milan, Bordighera, Catania, St. Peter’s Cupola, St. Mary Major in Rome, Nice, Florence. In the communities she offered her service for the liturgical-musical animation. In the 1970’s she frequented a program for the diploma *certifying her as a teacher in the preparatory grades* and then at the *FIRAD for theological and catechetical formation, for collaborators in pastoral ministry*. Her desire to cultivate herself, also culturally, was also expressed in other ways: classes in Archives; typing which facilitated her in the exercise of her mission. In response to her request, Mother Lucia told her: *“I can see you as a catechist, assistant in one of the Dicasteries, archives or librarian...”*. In fact, she worked for a time in collaboration with the *Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith*. At the conclusion of this service, the Delegate for the Administration said: *“I willingly take this opportunity to thank and cordially remember Sr. Aurora for the work she carried out on behalf of the missions. She was exemplary in observing the schedule and in diligence. I unite myself with all of the colleagues at the administrative office wishing her the same proficiency in the pastoral work and in the other duties to which she may be assigned”* (December 3, 1979). During her time in the community at St. Mary Major, she enthusiastically offered her assistance to the Parish of St. Vito in the catechetical instruction of the children for First Holy Communion. For a time she was in the mailing office for the magazine *LA VITA IN CRISTO E NELLA CHIESA*; in the 1980s she was in the Regina Apostolorum community in Milan as portress and fulfilling various duties. Since 1991 she worked in the secretariat for the Italian Association of St. Cecilia (AISC) for the animation of sacred music in the Italian Church, a duty she carried out with love and joy. In 2006 she was transferred to the community of Albano. *“She came to Alba for minor health problems, but her situation worsened after a fall in which she fractured her pelvis and her right wrist. Six days ago she developed a pulmonary infection which led to her death. The element that struck me the most was her intense prayer; she spent long hours in the chapel and when she was confined to bed and the others assisted her in prayer, she would respond immediately and energetically”* (Sr. M. Cecilia Cantamessa).

Thanking Sr. M. Regina Cesarato for the feastday greetings she said: *“I am very grateful for your greeting and in joy I offer it to the Madonna because it was with her and through her that it was offered to me. Joy and holiness, steps to be climbed in serenity and goodness”* (September 19, 2008). We are certain that the Virgin Mary, whose name she bore, will introduce her to the beatific vision of God! Sr. M. Aurora, sing in eternity the praises of the Most Holy Trinity!

S. H. Paolo Haucman