



Dear Sisters,

The liturgy of this 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time invites us: “All you who are thirsty, come to the water! ...Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life”. This invitation was received today, in the silence of the night of August 3, 2014, by our sister

**Sr. M. Grazia Giorgia Gulino,
born in Ragusa on December 12, 1920.**

On this first Sunday of the month of August, approaching 4:00 AM, Jesus Master lead her into eternal life. Sr. M. Grazia, who was in the infirmary of the Divine Master community in Albano Laziale (Rome), woke to the light of that endless day and met the Risen Christ, at the dawn of the eighth day.

Giorgia was 18 years of age when she entered our Congregation in Catania on January 20, 1939. The pastor introduced her as a young woman with a good Christian formation and of sound moral character; he also emphasized her excellent participation in the sacramental life and the life of the Church, noting that Giorgia had an inclination for the religious life. In fact, following the novitiate in the same house of Alba (CN), on April 6, 1942, she made her religious profession. She would make her perpetual profession in Milan on May 27, 1947. In fulfilling the mission entrusted to her as a Sister Disciple, she spent periods in the alternate periods in the Divine Master Houses, in the sewing workrooms, and at times at the Society of St. Paul. In 1947 she is in the workroom for sacred art in Milan, then to the Society of St. Paul, where she worked in the laundry. She was then transferred to Catania, to Bordighera, and to Cinisello Balsamo for sewing. After some time spent in Ariccia, she was in Genoa and Cibali as an assistant in the infirmary. She then went to Palermo, Regina Apostolorum house in Rome, and the workroom in Catania. From 1984 to 1994 she was sent to various communities of the Society of St. Paul, working in the laundry: at the SP Film in Rome, Albano and Turin. In 1994 she offered her services in the infirmary of the Divine Master house in Albano and the following year in the community of Blessed Timothy (Rome, via Portuense). From here she was transferred in 1998 to the community of Palermo where she assisted in the community as her advanced age allowed. In May of this year her condition worsened and she was transferred to the infirmary in Albano, where she spent the last period of her long life often marked by suffering because of her poor health and her character, lovingly and patiently assisted by the sisters and the nursing staff.

Sr. M. Grazia experienced a profound spiritual tension toward the greater and better. She was a sister who hungered for the spiritual values, continually seeking God, as she expressed in one letter to Mother M. Lucia Ricci: *“I eagerly awaited the circular letter in preparation for our 50th anniversary of foundation; may it be a source of hope for all the Sister Disciples, for a return to the silence lived at one time, and which is desired and perhaps also sought because it is beloved...the need is felt only for God, to remain united with him alone; while all the novelty that does not fall within our area is only a source of annoyance that does not foster our progress.”* (Catania, 3/17/1973). Her love for the Congregation, for the Pauline Family, was translated into the constant and industrious offering of herself, as she affirms in an undated letter to Sr. M. Paola Mancini: *“It gave me great pleasure to see the **Pact** (Cambiale) since I paid it with much effort, one a week and it was never enough. I thank the Lord and Primo Maestro that he gave me the opportunity to acquire these merits, without refusal. This is my way of doing things, never saying no is a means of christification, and to experience being always more deeply a Sister Disciple. Love of Jesus in the Eucharist, in the priestly and liturgical service. May your prayers assist me as well”*.

To Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General, she wrote in one of her letters of 2007, referring to the importance of humility and faith: *“to live the offering with serenity and joy”*. And she continued: *“I am now at the limits of my strength, but I will continue to offer my little contribution for as long as I can. Please pray for me. I will do the same for you and for all those who govern”*. Sr. M. Grazia, she will bring to the Lord the needs of our brothers in the Society of St. Paul whom she loved and served for many years, and she will not forget to intercede for the gift of vocations in this centennial year of the foundation of the Pauline Family. We entrust to the mercy and tenderness of God the Father, this good and faithful servant. May she rest in peace!

Sr. M. Paola Mancini