



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 23, 2015, Feast of Mary Queen of Apostles, the vigil of Pentecost, at 7:30 AM, in the Community of Sanfrè (Cuneo), our Lord called to the eternal wedding banquet our sister,

**SR. M. LAURENZIA CATERINA PIUMATTI,
born on June 4, 1927, in San Lorenzo di Fossano (CN).**

She could boast of being baptized in the same parish church as Blessed James Alberione; San Lorenzo di Fossano. She entered the Congregation after her younger sister, Sr. M. Stefania. Caterina entered in Alba (CN) on August 20, 1945, at the blossoming age of eighteen. The pastor proudly presented her as an excellent and edifying young woman. They lost their parents and a sister at an early age. Consequently, they always assisted one another and journeyed together as Sister Disciple “sisters”.

After completing her novitiate in Alba, she made her first profession on April 4, 1948, and her perpetual profession on April 4, 1953, always in Alba. Following her first profession, she spent two years in Sanfrè, where her joyful disposition, together with her service, brought serenity to the infirm sisters. Soon she began her service to the communities as a capable driver in Alba, Milan, and Rome at the Society of St. Paul. In this role as “errand runner”, she became familiar with many of the streets, and she was always motivated by charity to provide for the needs of the brothers or sisters. From 1961, she began a series of mandates as local superior which required flexibility in the movements between Italy and France. She was local superior in Cinisello Balsamo in 1961, in 1964 she was in Florence, where she lived with the sisters, in 1966 there was the painful experience of the flooding of the Liturgical Apostolate Center and she dedicated herself with intelligence to the reconstruction. In 1967 she was at Nogent sur Marne in France as the person responsible for the community; she then went to Camaldoli in 1970. She spent some time in Rome at the Regina Apostolorum community (1972) and in the Saint Paul House (1974). At the conclusion of this mandate she spent some years in the community of Florence and, in 1978, she was called to France as local superior in Nogent sur Marne, where she remained until 1983, at which time she returned to Italy as the local superior at Bordighera for two terms; in 1989 she went to Alba. In 1992 she was asked to go to France as superior of the delegation and remained first at Nogent sur Marne and then, from 1995 to 2006, offered her services of hospitality and charity in the House for Priests in Nice. In 2006, she was serving at Nogent sur Marne as porters, where many people entered to visit the Chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed. Sr. M. Laurenzia, in her relationships in community and in her apostolic activity, demonstrated a goodness-tenderness-mercy that expresses the constant call of Pope Francis to conserve a spirit of tenderness. In 2012 she accepted the transfer to the house of Sanfrè, where she could receive the necessary treatment for respiratory insufficiency from which she suffered, and which would lead to the conclusion of her earthly pilgrimage.

In the midst of her active and dynamic life, Sr. M. Laurenzia always remained attentive to the spiritual journey. In 1998, during the spiritual exercises for her 50th anniversary of profession,

she made a synthesis of her journey of grace in a letter addressed to Sr. M. Paola Mancini, Superior General at that time: *“Great thanksgiving to the One who has been Everything in my life, so that I have been faithful to HIS LOVE: but I have to say that there are times when He was the Faithful One; He renewed everything, giving me a heart ready to begin again despite the tears. Looking back over these 50 years, I see and must acknowledge his great mercy and love, a love of mercy, of patience, of waiting for me to experience the light. Now I see his interventions of salvation clearly and this enables me to understand that his love is always greater, even when I am stubborn, blind and indifferent. This Easter light in which I am living is the sign of resurrection, without hiding my hesitation in life, my fears, but like Mary Magdalene, I seek to bring the oil that perfumes the house and renews his Beloved Face and gives me the joy of living, while bearing the weight of my humanity. Now thanksgiving also to the Congregation that I have loved with all my strength...With you I sing the Magnificat:...I ask you to accompany me in living out the will of God for my entire life!...the Master makes his voice heard: “come, come, like in the Song of Songs, the time is passed...this wedding invitation will be the final one”. This concern for seeking and fulfilling the will of God continued in her interior life until the end of her earthly journey. She wrote to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato: “It is 15 months that our Lord has asked for this “yes”. I strive to be open to his Holy Will, seeking to live as well as possible, but within me there is always the turbulence of things that come and go...” (Sanfrè, March 24, 2013). “My heart is always filled with love for all that is happening to me. I want to believe in prayer, which is the only thing that remains for me... My interior life is managed and entrusted to Jesus, to Mary who I experience within me” (October 12, 2013). She expressed her love for the Blessed Mother with the recitation of many rosaries, with many apostolic intentions for the Congregation, for the Mother General. Mary has certainly opened the gates of Paradise, for which she longed throughout her earthly life!*

S. M. Paola Mancini