



Dear Sisters,

This morning, February 21, 2015, at 9:00 AM, in the Community of Sanfrè (CN), the Lord called to himself our sister

SR. M. MAURILIA LUCIA CHIAVAZZA
born on July 10, 1931, in Bra (Cuneo).

Lucia entered the Congregation in Alba (CN) on December 7, 1953. She must certainly have breathed the freshness of the presence of the continually expanding Pauline Family, in the newness of its various institutes. When she made her request for admission to the Institute, her pastor, Fr. Giovanni Battista Roggero, presented his parishioner as a young woman “*who has always shown a marked sense of piety and maintained exemplary conduct*”. As a postulant, Lucia responded to the question: **WHAT IS RELIGIOUS LIFE FOR ME?** by saying: “*The religious vocation is a special grace God chooses to give a soul so that it can dedicate itself completely to love him, to serve him, and to be sanctified*”. **AND WHY DO I WANT TO ENTER RELIGIOUS LIFE?** She answered: “*I want to enter religious life to belong totally and solely to the Lord and arrive at the level of holiness to which he has called me, because **it is only near him that I can find true joy and true peace***” (Alba, 10/5/1954). She entered the novitiate on March 24, 1955, and made her religious profession on March 25, 1956, in Rome, where on March 25, 1961, she made her perpetual profession. The clarity of her vocational motivation gave Sr. M. Maurilia the strength to fulfill her journey as a Disciple with joy, even in the midst of difficulties caused by the fragility of her health, especially in the later years of her life.

Her apostolic itinerary in the various communities had a common denominator in tailoring: beginning in Bologna, and then in Genoa, in Cinisello Balsamo, Via Portuense in Rome, Turin, Alba, Bordighera, Florence, and from 1977 to 2002 at Saint Mary Major in Rome. She always offered her services as a capable seamstress for women and for men, a trade she learned at an early age – before entering the Congregation. The clerical attire she prepared was perfect, and constantly sought after by both the diocesan and the religious clergy, both in Rome and internationally. Her relationship with the priests, begun in the workroom, continued in written correspondence. From Italy and other nations, the priests presented their difficulties and requested her prayer. Thus, Sr. M. Maurilia was aware that she was fulfilling a true priestly apostolate.

Writing to Mother Lucia Ricci, then Superior General, she affirmed: “*My health is good , even if I cannot say that it is ideal. There is a lot of work and we try to complete it as well as possible. Most of the clients are fairly demanding and some are also difficult. But I certainly do not trust in my own weak energies but in the assistance and grace of God. I seek and especially ask the Divine Master that I may always and everywhere be a true Pious Disciple*” (Rome, 3/28/1978). In order to provide a more peaceful work environment, she was transferred to Rome (Regina Apostolorum) in 2002; then in 2003 to Turin, in 2006 in Bordighera, where she continued to exercise the same apostolate, as her health allowed. In 2011, as she needed particular assistance, she was transferred to the community of Sanfrè.

Last night she manifested preoccupying symptoms of a stroke. As she was prepared to be transported to the hospital, she suffered a cardiac arrest. She thus received the call to the eternal wedding feast, in the vicinity of those places where, at the age of twenty, she began her journey of following the Divine Master with joy and enthusiasm.

We extend our condolences to the family members, especially to her sister Giustina and family, who volunteered to maintain the house that marks the birthplace of Blessed James Alberione in San Lorenzo.

The greeting sent to Mother M. Lucia, on the occasion of her birthday, contains a message for us: *Greetings, that I want to prepare for you **with silence and prayer. Blessed Lent!***” (Rome, 2/7/1989).

Sr. M. Maurilia, we count on your intercession for the beginning of the ministry of the new provincial government, for the pastoral work with youth and vocations, and for the entire mission we are called to fulfill in the Church in this time! May you enjoy the peace and the light of the Face of God!

S. H. Paolo Mancini