



Dear Sisters,

Today, Saturday, August 8, 2015, at 11:30 AM, the Lord came to gather another flower from the community of Sanfrè (CN) and bring her to offer her perfume before God. This is our dear sister

COSTANTINO EMILIA SR. M. MONTIS
born on February 4, 1924, in Grinzano di Cervere (CN).

Emilia is the first of 11 brothers and sisters. She received her initial education from her parents, who were always vigilant and wise. Her mother and father usually ended the day praying the Rosary, thereby creating a family atmosphere that was conducive to the education of the children in the faith and Christian values. Not yet fifteen, Emilia entered the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Alba on December 10, 1938. This step was taken with great sacrifice to herself and to her family, who counted on her as the eldest. In 1950, her younger sister Margherita, Sr. M. Rosalba, who was nine years younger, joined her in the Congregation. They would be closely united in this journey of following the Divine Master.

Following the novitiate, she made her religious profession in Alba on April 6, 1942, Easter Monday, during the Second World War. At profession Emilia received the new name of Montis, given to her by Blessed Timothy Giaccardo in remembrance of the famous Sanctuary of Piedmont, Mondovì, dedicated to *Santa Maria Montis Regalis*.

During the celebration of her 50th anniversary of profession (1992), her nephew, Pier Giuseppe Costantino turned to his aunt, recalling her initial sacrifice in these words: *“Embracing religious life with its detachment from all material goods, which characterizes our life, is certainly not easy. Having done this at a time in which your help was needed in such a large family, in the historical events and the new war that was beginning, as the eldest of eleven children, who were still very young must have caused you and your family to endure trials and sufferings, in a completely different reality. You were able to remain faithful in your service to God, in your brothers, in a manner that was exemplary and undoubtedly with great divine energy that was deeply rooted within you”*.

Following the profession she was dedicated to the common Pauline mission at the time of propaganda, the diffusion of the Gospel, first in Novara (1942), then in Milan (1943). In 1944 she was in Alba with the responsibility for the kitchen and in 1946 she would be in Paris, working in Sacred Art. In Nogent Sur Marne (France), she made her final profession on July 18, 1947.

Upon her return to Italy, from 1951, she served as the driver: from 1953 to 1962 she would be fulfilling this service in Rome. She was very capable of making long trips while also fulfilling various other ministries.

After a period of time in Cinisello Balsamo, from 1961 to 1964, dedicated to the kitchen and the infirmary, she was recalled to Rome where, from 1964 to 1975 she would be the driver, especially for the Superior General and the members of the General Government, continuing this

ministry in the new location of the General House at Via Gabriele Rossetti until 1981. After a period of time in Camaldoli as cook, she went to the Community of Jesus Master in Rome, for general services beside Mother M. Lucia Ricci. In 2001 she spent a short period of time in Albano for health reasons then, in November, she went to the community in Bordighera, and to Sanfrè in 2006. Already from that time, the health of this sister was progressively declining. In the last few weeks her condition rapidly deteriorated, leading to her death.

A few notes written by Mother M. Lucia Ricci on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the profession Sr. M. Montis describe her personality: *“The Lord endowed Sr. M. Montis with gifts of grace and nature, which were utilized entirely for her personal progress and for the common good. She demonstrated her capability in various areas: nursing, with many occasions to practice physiotherapy, in which she was trained. She had a taste for beauty, an artistic sense, gifts that are particularly useful for the mission of the Sister Disciples. Her “green thumb” worked wonders and with her hands and talent, she grew flowers and vegetables. She was one of the first drivers in the Congregation. In obedience, she had many occasions to use her license, especially in accompanying the Superiors in their visits to the communities not only in Italy, but also in Europe: Spain, Portugal, France and Poland. With regard to Poland: in dangerous and restricted times, it was not easy to arrive and they had various adventures, fortunately with good outcomes”.*

Especially in these last years of her illness, the spirit of sacrifice of Sr. M. Montis was evident: her face communicated that peace that dwelt in the depth of her soul and she was perceived to be in continual communion with God, the fruit of her constant orientation in life. Intensely laborious and active, deprived of autonomy by her illness, she grew in patience and conformity to God’s will. Now in Paradise, Sr. M. Montis, you certainly find persons who are dear to you and together intercede for the gift of new and generous vocations, for the young, for the upcoming Synod on the Family! Shine like a flower through your interior beauty, and your goodness, having so greatly loved Mary Most Holy, the most beautiful of all flowers!

S. H. Paolo Mancini