



Dear Sisters,

This morning, July 27, 2015, at 10:50, in the community of Sanfré (CN), the Lord called to the eternal wedding feast, our sister

**SR. M. PIERPIA (ANNA) BRONDINO,
born in S. Martino di Fossano (CN) on May 2, 1931.**

Raised in a large family, the young Anna was carried to the baptismal font by her father on the day of her birth. She was trained in the fundamental Christian principles: in the fear of God and in respect toward her neighbor and toward creation. Some years later, in 1939, when she received the Sacrament of Confirmation, the family moved to S. Lorenzo di Fossano, the birthplace of Fr. James Alberione. In this large family, blessed with seven children, all three of the girls embraced religious life. While still an adolescent, on September 7, 1943, as the war made everything more dramatic and precarious, Anna entered the Congregation of the Sister Disciples at the Mother House in Alba. A few months later, on November 15, her brother Chiaffredo (Fredo), thirteen, followed her and joined the group of the young men of the Society of St. Paul. Her brother's vocation as a Pauline priest, for her, was a daily cause for pride, for prayer and for sacrifice. This was also true of the vocation to religious life that she shared with her sisters, who entered the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Throughout her life these broadened her horizons and nourished the universal Pauline spirit within her.

The stages of her religious life proceeded with simple regularity: on March 24, 1949, she entered the novitiate, and on March 25, 1950, made her religious profession in Alba (CN). It was the Holy Year, a year of grace that was emphasized also in the names given to the young novices. They recall the first popes, the successors of Peter who presided over the Church of Rome in charity: Peter, Linus, Cletus, Clement, etc... It was a bond that translated into a commitment to pray and offer sacrifices for the pope throughout the ages.

On March 25, 1955, she made her perpetual profession in Rome. Her apostolic ministry consisted mainly in bookbinding and retouching miniature photos. She is also remembered for her diligence and prudence as a driver: she was one of the first and among the most trusted drivers in our communities.

Her personnel file in the archives contains very few personal writings which are always very essential in their content, and clearly witness to her shy and reserved personality. She was very practical and of few words. But the most beautiful remembrance of her is in the vocational film "The Blue Mantle", in which Sr. M. Pierpia appears as the driver who brings the sisters on a mission in service of beautifying the place of worship, in a location near the sea. She knew all the secrets of this film. When she spoke about the filming, about the cast, about the mission, she transmitted the enthusiasm of the experience, the pride at being chosen to transmit in images and gestures the invitation of Jesus Master: "Come and see".

She spent most of her life in the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome. It was only last year, with the worsening of her sickness, an intestinal cancer, and the decrease in her physical strength, that she was transferred to the community of Sanfrè, where she found the necessary assistance until the conclusion of her earthly pilgrimage.

The sisters of the community, the nurses, and the staff were edified by her ability to bear the sickness, her gratitude for the gift of life, and for every expression of care and affection: a sensitivity that was refined with time and the loving and daily attendance at the school of the Divine Master.

As she looks upon the reality of our Congregation and of the Church with God's gaze, let us entrust to her intercession the sisters in temporary vows who are beginning their preparation for perpetual profession. May they, like her, enjoy God's faithfulness now and forever!

Sr. M. Michaela Monetti