



Dear Sisters,

Today, January 21, 2015, Memorial of St. Agnes, virgin and martyr, at 3:00 PM in the infirmary of the Divine Master Community of Cinisello Balsamo, the Lord called to himself our sister,

**SR M. RACHELE ELIDE VEGETTI,**  
born on June 27, 1930, in Monza (Milan).

She was preceded in the journey to the heavenly homeland by her twin sister, Sr. M. Lia, also a Sister Disciple, who died in Bologna on September 7, 1986.

Elide entered in Alba together with her sister, Maria Luigia, on December 9, 1953. In a letter to the Mother General before entrance, the twins wrote: *“We note that we are entering His Congregation on December 9... Finally, after many years of waiting, the day we have so longed for has come also for us to become Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. The Lord and the Virgin Queen of Apostles, who see the depths of our hearts, know how much we longed to be truly his. They will grant us the grace of heath and perseverance to fulfill our ardent desire”!* At the time of their entrance into the Congregation they were accompanied to Alba by their parents, an aunt and their pastor.

The home of the twins, in Monza, was near our house of Cinisello Balsamo and the request to enter the Institute indicates that the community, at the beginning of its presence in Cinisello, held a positive attraction for the young people in the neighborhood.

Sr. M. Rachele completed the entire formation process together with her twin sister: the novitiate in Rome beginning on March 24, 1955, first religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1956, and perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1961. During the postulancy, in response to the question: *“What does the religious vocation mean for me?”*, she wrote on October 5, 1954: *“I esteem it as a great gift that God gave me. It provides the means by which I can work for him to arrive at a high level of perfection...I want to enter the religious life in order to do the will of God, by corresponding to his call, to do good and, through prayer, attract souls to God”.* This interior dynamic, inspired by faith and a profound interior wisdom specific to that of the little ones in the Gospel, sustained the entire spiritual and apostolic journey of Sr. M. Rachele. After profession she dedicated herself to various activities that were apparently very simple but lived with an apostolic spirit. Initially, Sr. M. Rachele was at the Mother House in Alba, working in the refectory; from 1958-1960 she was at Cinisello Balsamo in the workroom. From 1970, she was primarily in the communities of the Society of Saint Paul, as seamstress, in the refectory, in the workroom in Rome or in Albano. In 1985 she was in Bologna as the cook, then in 1999 in Turin, always as the cook. Due to declining health, she was transferred to Cinisello Balsamo as an elderly sister. Those who lived with her were touched by her goodness, her constant generosity, and they inhaled the perfume of her life of charity that was expressed in words and in gestures.

She suffered from Parkinson's, with various complications, among which were rigidity of the limbs and inability to speak. As her condition worsened in these last days, she consciously completed her earthly pilgrimage. In sickness, she was a presence of peace and serenity, filled with gratitude for every kindness offered by the sisters.

The offering of the life of Sr. M. Rachele, in these days as the new provincial government in Italy and the General Chapter of the Society of St. Paul prepare to begin, is certainly one of intercession for the journey of unity and communion toward a mission that is becoming ever more urgent and demanding, requiring the collaboration of all.

Sr. M. Rachele, we invoke for you the gift of contemplating, together with Sr. M. Lia, the face of Jesus Master, which you sought with love and perseverance throughout your life. Live in God and rest in peace!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*