



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 31, 2018, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the DM community of Albano Laziale (RM), at 3:35 AM, the Lord called to the eternal Passover our sister

SR. M. FATIMA GRAZIA MINEO
born on July 2, 1921 in Agira (EN).

Grazia entered the Congregation on July 16, 1939, in Catania, followed a year later by her sister, Giuseppa, Sr. M. Antonietta, who preceded her to eternal life in 2003.

Following the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1943, in Alba (CN), and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1948, also in Alba. She fulfilled her mission with love and joy. She spent the first years in Catania, in Bordighera, and in Cosenza, in the diffusion of the Gospel and of the Good Press. In 1947 she was in the workroom at the Society of St. Paul. In 1950 she was in Paris, providing for the needs of the kitchen and donations. Upon her return to Alba in 1953, she was dedicated to the diffusion of our magazine *La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa*.

In 1955 we find her in the workroom preparing liturgical vestments. From 1956 she was in the various houses of the Society of St. Paul: in Rome at Casa S. Giuseppe on via Portuense, in Bari (1958), in Ostia Antica (1964). After two years in the workroom of the Divine Master House in Catania, we find her in Rome at the SSP Tenuta (1968) as the cook and in various services, and then in Pescara. From 1969 she was in the workroom in various communities: Genoa (1969), Catania (1973), Rome RA (1974), Palermo (1974). She was characterized by her dedication, generosity and responsibility in the apostolate and her sense of sacrifice.

In 2013 she was transferred from Palermo to the infirmary in Albano due to the decline in her physical condition. She accepted with faith the limitations imposed upon her by her health, which was continually more fragile and requiring attention, until the conclusion of her earthly pilgrimage.

Sr. M. Fatima had great care for her spiritual work, with a great desire to deepen her interior life through reading books dealing with the interior life. In a spiritual program dated September 15, 1998, she stated: *«To please Jesus I want to spend this year in a spirit of humility, of love and of reparation to atone for my sins of infidelity to the many graces the Lord has bestowed upon me. My adorations: I will place myself before Jesus who is humble and poor, in need of his forgiveness, of his mercy, of his graces; to hear his voice of peace, recalling that I am here to present my Congregation, the Church, the world, everyone. Not only to pray, but to offer»*. In poverty she underscored: *«I will look for an offering to help vocations»*. She also committed herself to pray especially for priestly vocations. This sensitivity to seek benefactors, especially to assist vocations, to help pay for the *investitures* for needy vocations, always characterized her and, even now, in her advanced age she maintained her missionary spirit. *«I take this opportunity, she wrote to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, to send you the donation offered by Mr. X for Jerusalem (2009, 2010)»* and emphasized that the offering was always accompanied by prayer, a drop of water in the ocean, but made with great sacrifice and love from the person making the offering.

In her spiritual life there is always an interior attitude of humility, of poverty, of abandonment to the mercy of God and, at the same time, experiencing his nearness as well as that of Mary, her true Mother. The concluding prayer of the spiritual program mentioned above merits attention: *«Mother of mine and of Vocations, I present myself to you, poor in every virtue. I ask of you the grace to be faithful to my vocation and submissive to the will of God. Every day, I present to you **the young people called to a priestly and religious vocation, give them the strength to abandon everything and follow your Beloved Son, the Divine Master and, for this it is worth living, suffering and dying**»*. Let us thank the Lord for his gift of the spiritual heritage of Sr. M. Fatima, who always sought the Divine Master and so greatly desired that other young people might follow! In eternity, our Sister, you will continue this prayer, especially in this year in which we prepare for the Synod on youth!

S. H. Paolo Mancini