



Dear Sisters,

Last night, June 18, 2013, at 8:15 PM, from the community of Cinisello Balsamo (MI), returned to the Father's house our sister,

SR. M. PIERA - OLIVA MARIN
born on January 2, 1926, in Bovolenta (Padua)

From a fairly large family filled with faith and Christian values, this young woman entered the Congregation in Alba (Cuneo) on August 28, 1947. The pastor introduced her in this way: *"The girl is good, I believe you have made a good acquisition. She is reliable. She is not lacking in the spirit of sacrifice, and she is very generous"*. Following her novitiate, she made her first profession in Alba on March 25, 1950, and her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1955. She bore within herself an attitude of self-giving that expressed itself very early, immediately after profession, in her service in the kitchen, at first as an assistant and then, little by little, as the person in charge.

Immediately after her perpetual vows, she crossed the ocean to the Philippines where she would become the local Superior at the Saint Paul House in Pasay City (Manila), where she was a pioneer, together with two other sisters, for the presence of the Sister Disciples in this nation which held great promise for vocations and for our specific mission. She remained there for some years until, with the gift of young women from the area, other missionaries arrived to assist them. She returned to Rome in 1960 as the cook in the House of the Society of St. Paul until 1963, when she left Italy once again to go to London, England, always to assist the Pauline brothers. In 1968 she returned to Italy and, after two years as the cook at the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome, she was asked to serve as Local Superior at the Society of St. Paul in Vicenza. From 1973 to 1983, she was back in the Regina Apostolorum community, where the young sisters remember her as an able teacher in the kitchen and in religious life for the novices who were guided by her in the responsibilities of an apostolate. From 1983 to 1989 she was, once again, Local Superior at the Society of St. Paul in Vicenza. Then, from 1989 to 1997, she was in the General House of the Society of St. Paul, first as the superior of the community and then as an expert cook. From 1997, she was at the St. Paul House in Turin, where she would remain until December of 2012, when she was diagnosed with a tumor. The Lord heard her desire to remain active until the end of her earthly life. Sr. M. Piera had assumed within herself, as a dimension of her identity, the aspect of living for others, especially the priests. Therefore, even in advanced age, service even in the most modest things was a pleasure for her, rather than a burden. The spirit which animated her service is summarized in a short sentence: *"May the Divine Master grant that I may give all with love and for love"* (to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, August 5, 1983) and in the gratitude she often expressed in various writings and in her words: *"my heartfelt thanks are in prayer"*. Last April, Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General, visited Cinisello and, among other things, Sr. M. Piera confided to her: *"I am happy with my life, God has given me the hundredfold. I am ready to do God's will. I am ready; when he wants to come, I am here. Thanks be to God for everything"*.

Sr. M. Giovanna Colombo, Provincial Superior, was able to meet with her yesterday morning, and was present when she received the Anointing of the Sick. She testified: *"For my part, I can say that Sr. M. Piera lived this trial serenely from the first moment. She was aware of her sickness. She was told in the hospital at Turin, and she immediately requested to go to the community of Cinisello since her mission among the Pauline brothers was finished. Today I arrived in Cinisello almost at the beginning of the celebration of the anointing of the sick. Sr. M. Piera followed everything. I remained with her for about an hour, conversing and praying. I asked her how she felt and if she was serene. She responded "I am most serene". I asked if she was content in the way the Lord guided her life and she replied, "I am most happy". The Lord heard her prayer since she passed into eternity with great serenity"*. Her life concluded as the result of complications from her illness, surrounded by the loving care of the sisters who are nurses, the sisters of the community, and some family members.

Sr. M. Piera, in your life you dedicated the first hours of the day to the encounter with the Risen Jesus. Now, with your gaze fixed forever on the face of the Divine Master, remember the sisters celebrating their jubilees as they prepare to begin the Spiritual Exercises, and all the Sister Disciples around the world, and ask for the gift of holiness for all!

Sr. H. Paolo Harcom