



Dear Sisters,

Last night, July 7, 2013, at 7:45 PM, with the conclusion of the First Sunday of the month of July - dedicated to the Divine Master, our dearest sister,

**Mother M. Tecla Pierina Molino**  
**born on December 15, 1919, in Ferrere D'Asti (AT),**

was introduced into the long-awaited eternal wedding feast.

She entered the Congregation at an early age, filled with enthusiasm, on April 10, 1933, in Alba, at the age of fourteen. Mother Maria Tecla wrote: *"I can humbly say, that the story of my vocation to religious consecration among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master is entirely a sign of God's love, which was very clear for me. At a very early age, I cannot remember exactly when, but very early; between the ages of five and seven, I said "I will become a sister." On April 10, 1933, Monday of Holy Week, I entered at St. Paul in Alba. I was received by Mother M. Antonietta Marellò, the Postulant mistress. There was poverty, work for all, great joy and prayer! Prayer was heard everywhere: in Church, in the great Temple that was not yet completed, but already filled with incredible benches that were certainly not comfortable! Not only that, prayer was heard everywhere, in the areas of the young people, in the printing department, in the bookbinding, etc. Prayer and hymns were heard after meals until evening in the large rooms, before retiring for the night: "Virgin Mary Mother of Jesus, make us saints!" I greatly enjoyed that moment in the evening as the Sister Disciples continued to dry the mountain of silverware that never ended. I enjoyed everything, even the food that was not scarce, but hardly inviting. I remember well that I told myself: everyone is eating and content with this, I can stay well in the same manner, and I nourished myself joyfully! I was happy and wrote to my family that I was very content, thanking them for the sacrifices they made for me, and that I prayed for them."*

At that time, the sisters were sent out immediately wherever there was a need. Thus, she recalled that at a certain point Mother Scholastica sent her to France for the "propaganda". *"It seems to me that it was in 1936. We were sent for propaganda. We had to earn some money to send to Alba for the support of the Society of St. Paul."* The young postulant, Pierina, was then recalled to Alba for the Novitiate.

1938 was a decisive year for our Congregation. Fr. Alberione saw the urgent need to begin the specific formation for the Sister Disciples, under the pastoral guidance of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, who was personally chosen by the Founder. From 1939 to 1940, Sr. Pierina formed part of the first group of novices: her novice mistress was the young M. M. Lucia Ricci, assisted by Father Giaccardo. These persons would profoundly mark her spiritual journey and her future ministry. On March 25, 1940, she made her first Religious Profession and received the name of Tecla, in honor of the disciple of St. Paul.

On March 25, 1946, always in Alba, she made her Perpetual Profession.

From 1940 to 1947, she was the mistress of the Aspirants and, simultaneously, taking some theology courses. In 1947, she was appointed as Novice Mistress. She exercised this ministry in Alba

until the novitiate was transferred to Rome in 1954. She then continued in this role until 1960, with the exception of two brief intervals: in 1949 she was in Sanfre' for health reasons, and in 1956-1957. She was elected as a General Councilor in the First General Chapter (1957) and fulfilled other ministries at the same time. She was the Local Superior at the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome (Portuense) (1960-1962), then a missionary in Argentina (1962-1966), and then in the United States (1966-1968), with responsibilities also for Mexico and Canada. From 1969 to 1981, she was the Vicar General and, simultaneously, also resumed the ministry as Local Superior in the Regina Apostolorum community in 1977.

In the Third General Chapter of 1981, she was elected Superior General and re-elected for a second term in the Fourth General Chapter of 1987. During these two terms, Jesus Master granted the gift of great vitality to our Congregation. The circulars of Mother M. Tecla were, for the entire Institute, a school which was simple, yet filled with grace and optimism, which guided all toward living the charism in creative fidelity. Mother M. Tecla manifested her courage, her proven virtue, and a profound spiritual life, also in the countless letters she wrote during her ministry of governance. We have experienced her many virtues, her great heart, the wisdom and firmness of her decisions. She was very grateful to the secretaries and the councilors who assisted her in the service of government, recalling especially Sr. M. Christiane Gervais and Sr. M. Paola Mancini, who then succeeded her as Superior General.

Having concluded her service at the general level, from 1994 to 2000, she was Local Superior at Bordighera, and from 2000 transferred to the community of Sanfre' as a sister in need of care. During the Year of Faith, the Divine Master granted us the gift of the great witness of profound faith in the person of Mother M. Tecla. In this perspective, we are enlightened by some of her personal notes written in 2002: *"In my story, in the beautiful part, that is, the part "constructed" by the Lord, which I believe was like this, as I sought to describe it: everything is a mark of his merciful Love! I felt this at the beginning, and I feel the same today (...) Naturally, beside and with the Lord, there were his providential instruments: family, school, parish! And during this journey I recall Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, not only as the regular confessor, but also as a teacher, an educator. From his lessons, one left as from a Temple. I believe that I have also assumed some of his language, some of his typical expressions for the spiritual and mystical life (...).*

*A few months after my entrance, I was called to the parlor by a Pauline priest: Fr. Domenico Ambrosio, the same person who guided me in my vocational decision, following a course of Spiritual Exercises. He told me, more or less: "I am leaving for China. I have been sent by Signor Teologo (Fr. Alberione) and I need much prayer: will you offer yourself for our mission?" Without pausing to reflect or to ask further explanation, I calmly responded: "Yes, yes, I will ask Mother Scholastica's permission." And so I did! Mother, without asking for an explanation, replied: "Go ahead!" And so I did this on my own, writing a brief note of which I recall only the following words: **"I offer my life for the missions as a victim of apostolic zeal"**. I believe that this last expression came from my formation in Catholic Action, which I loved a great deal! A simple act: however, I can say that I committed myself and this helped a great deal at the beginning of my religious life. It was a period in which the apostolic spirit was greatly inculcated in the Congregation. I would also like to say that it was lived...especially for the Priests, missionaries: **Offer for the priests who are going to the missions, for priests who write, who preach, who hear confessions, etc. The prayers and "sacrifices" of the moment were joyfully and spontaneously offered, I would like to say, and were directed to great apostolic and missionary goals! In the large complex of the Pauline Family, we breathed deeply the beauty of the Pauline vocation within the universal Church.***

*Shortly after Perpetual Profession, March 25, 1946, influenced, I believe, by the offering to the Merciful Love by St. Therese of the Child Jesus, one morning I asked the Confessor, Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, for permission to make the vow of abandonment to merciful Love, just as St. Therese had done. He asked a few questions and then concluded: "If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this, then go ahead". And so that same morning I did so as I received Holy Communion. I then*

*communicated this to M. M. Lucia Ricci, who pointed out some difficulties to me: "This may cost you a great deal in certain moments...", but I was at peace, decided and content! Today, I do not have the words to express my gratitude to God for having guided my spirit in the way of evangelical abandonment. How much strength for every act of obedience, for an infinite number of situations experienced on the personal and Congregational levels! It is useless to recall my little and great battles, resistances...God is Father! God is love! Abandoning myself to his merciful love is the greatest adventure that I have experienced! It is the totally gratuitous gift of his Spirit, who accompanies me even today, in light, in shadows, in aridity, throughout my almost eighty-three spring-times! God is a Father who is "rich in mercy"!*

In these last years, Mother Tecla's face had acquired the sweetness of a person who is interiorly at peace, despite the difficult trials caused by illness and the advancing of the years. The sisters approached her to repeat: "Thank you for all you have done for the Congregation, we will pray for you; in turn, she would respond: thank you, thank you"!

When she was still able to speak, I asked her what I should say to the Sisters, she responded: "Never omit the Adoration; the thing that impressed me when I entered was the adoration. I would be helpful to talk about the different forms of adoration, how to make it, reinforce the first Sunday of the month. Primo Maestro often emphasized this. Renew the values. Work courageously for vocations; assign the best sisters to this ministry".

With Sr. M. Giovanna Colombo and the other sisters of the provincial government in Italy, I also hurried to the bedside of Mother Tecla at various moments of crisis as her health declined, in order to bring her the gratitude and embrace of the entire Congregation. She was happy to see us and to pray together for the most important appointment of her life. She recognized and called by name all the sisters who came to her room, and thanked those who assisted her. Finally, exhausted, struggling for breath and sometimes assailed by fear, she requested assistance and the communion of prayer. Gathered in her room, still lucid, she followed us as we recited the profession of our baptismal faith, the Pauline prayer to Mary (Receive me, O Mother...), the renewal of the offering for the Congregation, for the Pauline Family, for vocations, and for the Church.

The final witness of Mother M. Tecla to all the Sister Disciples may be contained in the words she wrote ten years ago to the Superior General, in a moment of critical illness: "Dearest M. M. Paola, thank you for your interest regarding my health, which has placed me in contact with all the sisters around the world in a new way. I feel the benefit of our fraternal communion. I thank all and each one. I embrace you, Paola, and with you I embrace all the sisters of the Congregation with whom I wish to enter into profound communion under these circumstances. Happy Easter, and this Easter I embrace each and everyone in the joy of the Resurrection: all the Sister Disciples in the garden of the Resurrection! ALLELUIA! for me and for you. Life is beautiful when **we rest in God in faith!** With affection" (Sr. M. Tecla Molino - Sanfre', April 12, 2003).

With gratitude for this Mother General Emeritus, recalling her great responsibilities, I recommend to all the suffrages according to the indications given in the Directory (cf 70.4). Mother M. Tecla, who is living in God, will continue to accompany the journey of our Congregation and to intercede for those situations of persons and apostolate that have need of more grace. May she be admitted to the Presence of the Lord whom she loved and awaited her entire life! Rest in peace!

*Sr M. Regina Cesarato*

*Sr M. Regina Cesarato, Superiora generale*