



Dear Sisters,

Today, November 20, 2018, at 6:30 AM, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), the Lord, as Bridegroom, knocked on the door of the heart of our sister

SR. M. PAOLA – DOMENICA BOGLIOTTI
BORN ON MAY 25, 1931, IN SAVIGLIANO (CN).

As an adolescent, Domenica entered the Congregation in Alba (CN) on August 28, 1944. She was a member of a large family consisting of her parents, three brothers and three sisters. Already in her family life, she experienced the richness, the complexity and the joy of the communion of life which favored her serene passage into the community life. The characteristics of the agricultural life - love for the earth, respect for the rhythms of time and seasons, sacrifice as an integral part of life - also contributed toward her vital training and formation so that it matured within her determination and constancy in every commitment. In this family atmosphere there was also the maturation of the religious vocation of one of her sisters: Sr. Lucia, of the Comboni Sisters also known as the *Pie Madri della Nigrizia*, with whom she would always remain close. She accompanied her with interest and with prayer to her mission in Mozambique, often requesting prayers for her, aware of the many dangers she faced in her life as a missionary.

Having completed the initial formation, the novice Domenica, deemed suitable to advance in the vocation and in the apostolate, made her first profession in Alba on March 25, 1950, and her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1955. Immediately after profession, she began her apostolic work in bookbinding, limited to liturgical books of the Pauline Editions which, for a time, functioned as our workroom at Casa Madre in Alba (CN). In 1968, Sr. M. Paola was transferred to Cinisello Balsamo (MI) to continue in the same work. After some months, she was sent to the Society of St. Paul in Vicenza where, for a five-year period, she worked in the refectory. In 1973 she returned to the bookbinding in Cinisello Balsamo, where she offered her competent assistance until 1980. She then continued in the same community providing various services and as local councilor. In 1991 she returned to the house of the Society of St. Paul in Vicenza, where she offered her precise and attentive service in the refectory. Also here she was greatly appreciated for her tactfulness, precision and silence. She remained there for several years and, in 2009, she was also vice superior in the same community. In 2011 she went to the community of Turin where she fulfilled various services. Following the diagnosis of Alzheimers' Disease in 2015, she was transferred to the community of Sanfrè (CN). The disease did not rob her of her habitual profound peace, serenity and tranquility. As her need for care and assistance increased, she always expressed her gratitude for the care she received.

Sr. M. Paola personally bore witness to the initial directive of the Founder: *observe silence, silence, silence*, given to the two sisters who were set apart on November 21, 1923, for the foundation of the Sister Disciples: Orsola and Metilde. A silence, the fruit of a profound listening to the Divine Master, exercised primarily as charity. Sr. M. Paola did not waste time in useless or offensive gossip toward her sisters, whom she understood with fraternal love. She had a strong sense of duty: dedicating as much time as possible to the fulfillment of any task entrusted to her, in the simplicity of daily life. It was evident that she was animated by a profound apostolic spirit, sustained by assiduous prayer and the daily Eucharistic adoration. Tried also by the gradual loss of her family

members, she lived and communicated her confidence that *«death is always a mystery filled with pain and hope that opens the doors to Paradise for us»* (to M. M. Lucia Ricci, April 29, 1986).

During this period the liturgy invites us to reflect upon the return of the Lord Jesus and asks us to be attentive to his coming, as he reminds us in today's first reading: *«Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me»* (Rev 3:20). Following a progressive worsening of her disease, and accompanied by the loving attention of the sisters whom she repaid with her smile, she concluded her earthly pilgrimage this morning. We can imagine that our sister, Sr. M. Paola, has already been introduced into the eternal wedding banquet to share the meal with her heavenly Spouse.

Sr. M. Paola now, together with Blessed James Alberione and all the members of the Pauline Family, will certainly intercede for the progress of the Congregation in the sanctification of its members and in the mission, especially for the perseverance of the Juniors who are concluding the trimester in preparation for their perpetual vows!

Sr. M. Paola Mancini