



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, April 9, 2019, at 5:40 PM, in the community of Sanfrè (Italy), our sister returned to the Father's House,

**SR. M. CLEMENTINA – DESOLINA DRAGONE  
born on September 14, 1926, in Vicoforte (CN).**

Desolina entered in the community of Alba (CN) on January 18, 1948, coming from a place of strong spirituality, sustained by the presence of the sanctuary-basilica *Regina Montis Regalis* in Vicoforte. The pastor introduced her as being an exemplary young woman. In the notes regarding her formative journey she is described as: good and having optimum attitudes. After the initial formation, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1950, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1955. Her brief and concise vocational story, written in 2012, expresses the various passages of God in her life. *«The story of my vocation: I consider it a gift from God and desire to correspond to it always more fully. I come to love Jesus greatly and to become a saint. This was my response in my letter requesting acceptance. I was admitted for January 25, 1948, and I casually anticipated it to January 18. Sr. M. Anna came to accompany me to Alba to join the group that had entered before me. I was happy because finally, after five years of waiting, the call of God became a reality that had become felt and always more deeply convincing, also through the approval of the Pastor and of my dear parents. Jesus used a small calendar, in which the Sister Disciples took turns in adoration before Jesus in the Eucharist day and night in the great Church of Saint Paul in Alba. This was the first mission of the Sister Disciples, and I was strongly drawn to it. The second mission was the priestly apostolate, which I greatly enjoyed. The third mission was the liturgical apostolate: everything that served for the decor of the Church and the beauty of the liturgical actions. I liked everything and it motivated me to love Jesus in the Eucharist».*

Recalling the stages of her formative journey, she emphasized: *«It was a great gift and the greatest joy to have the dear Founder present for our perpetual profession».* In view of the perpetual profession, she was asked about her willingness to be a missionary, which brought her great joy. *«Jesus Master turned this desire into a reality, and on July 31, 1956, she left with two other sisters (Sr. M. Piera Marin and Sr. M. Lidia Drudi) for the new mission in the Philippine Islands. After 25 days at sea and a 4 hour flight (Hong Kong – Manila) we arrived at our mission. Unfortunately for me - for health reasons - this lasted only 7 years. Upon my return to Italy in the month of May, Mother Maestra (M. M. Lucia Ricci) had me join a group of sisters who were making a 25 day retreat in Ariccia (1963). This was preached by Primo Maestro, and I was happy because of the esteem and love I had for the Founder. At the end of the retreat Mother Maestra sent me to Ireland ... where I remained for 10 years; 4 years in England, 1 year in Toulouse, 6 months in Paris. I returned to Rome (1986) where I remained for 18 years, and then in Sanfrè. I praise the Lord for all the graces and experiences I have received».*

In a letter to M.M. Lucia Ricci, from the Philippines, she wrote: *«In regard to the offering of my life for priests, on which you asked me to give a report before our departure, I was told by Fr. Dragone (a Pauline priest, her cousin and a noted theologian) that for now the Lord wants us to serenely and joyfully accept the daily life, moment by moment, in everything that he wants or permits in order to be more fully in the spirit of the Congregation, more sanctifying. Apostolate and suffering. The Divine Master is faithful, delicate, he asks but also provides a superabundance of peace, of grace. He gives light, strength and grace to fulfill the mission that has been entrusted*

to us. *It is enough to give him our will and a little bit of correspondence, that in my weakness and possibility I can give him»* (Pasay City, December 4, 1956).

Her apostolic activities consisted predominantly in the Pauline houses or in the sewing workroom. During the time spent in the General House, she offered her collaboration in various duties; among these was a period of time in which she cooked for the sisters working in the souvenir shops at Saint Peter's.

Sr. M. Clementina had a deep thirst for God and continually sought his face. The time dedicated to prayer, to Eucharistic adoration, was a priority in her life. She then translated this search for communion with the Lord in actions of charity and fraternal service. Writing to M. M. Tecla Molino, the Superior General at that time, for her feastday (September 22, 1991) she formulated a prayer that we can receive as her spiritual legacy:

*I thank you, Lord, for your infinite love which surrounds me.*

*I thank you for your paternal providence that always follows me.*

*For your gentle grace that searches everywhere for me, thank you, Lord.*

*For your untiring forgiveness that always welcomes me, thank you, O Lord.*

*For your light, your strength, your mercy, thank you, Lord.*

*At the beginning of the day, with the sunrise, I thank you.*

*At the end of the day, at sunset, I thank you.*

*In the bad and in the good, in joy and in tears, I thank you.*

*Even the cross is love, I know, Lord, and I accept it.*

*Also joy is love, I know, O Lord, and I ask for it.*

*Thank you, O Lord, my God, thank you for everything!*

Sr. M. Clementina, already suffering from various maladies associated with advanced age, and lovingly assisted by the sisters, went peacefully to meet the Bridegroom, ready to celebrate the eternal Passover! Now, Sr. M. Clementina, from heaven intercede for the post-chapter journey of the Congregation called to live the mission continually, according to the heart of Saint Paul and in the spirit of Mary Most Holy, model of every disciple; in every situation and in every stage of life!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*