



Dear Sisters,

Today, June 9, 2019, at the completion of the Easter Mystery of Jesus with the Solemnity of Pentecost, in the Blessed Timothy Community - Rome, at 5:00 AM, our sister also completed her paschal mystery

**SR. M. LOURDES - NATALIA PIVA**  
**born on February 11, 1926, in Brugine (Padua).**

Natalia was born on the liturgical feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and this feast, beginning with her name at profession, would influence her entire life. She entered the Congregation at the age of fifteen in Sacile (PN) on February 8, 1941.

In the short notes written in her vocational story, Sr. M. Lourdes recalls that she fought, from a very young age, in Catholic Action. She narrates that her vocation sprang from a dream she interpreted as a premonition. She dreamt that she found herself in a large church in which the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and there were two sisters praying. While going to Mass, she told her grandmother that she wanted to be a sister, to which the grandmother responded that she would still need to eat a lot of *polenta*. Then she asked her grandmother to wake her every morning so that she could participate in daily Mass with her, because she wanted to nourish herself with Jesus. The Pauline sisters went to her town to diffuse books and asked if some of the girls wanted to become sisters. She responded, but given her age of thirteen, they told her they would need to ask the sister responsible for receiving the new girls before responding to her request.

The following January she met a Sister Disciple, Sr. M. Ancilla Bellesso, and she asked her the question again. After eight days she received a positive response: they would accept her. Her father, unconvinced of her determination to follow the vocation of her dreams, accompanied her to the Pauline community in Sacile (PN). After a short time, Natalia, still an adolescent but already an aspirant, met Primo Maestro as he was visiting the Pauline community and received the confirmation of her vocation from him.

Despite the war taking place also in Italy during the 1940's, the Pauline life in the House continued and the young women made religious profession on March 25, 1944. Then Elena, her younger sister, joined her in the vocational journey, receiving the name of Sr. M. Olivia. She died in 2017.

In her narrative she recounts that the Founder intervened in her favor in response to some confusion regarding her admission to perpetual vows, which she professed on March 25, 1949, also in Alba (CN).

Following religious profession she began her mission, alternating between the Pauline houses and the Divine Master communities. For some years she was in the Saint Paul house in Rome (1945), in Catania (1947), returning to Rome (1948), to Milan (1951); in the embroidery workroom in Alba (1952), then in Florence (1954); at the Society of St. Paul in Rome (1957), in the sewing workroom in Rome SMM (1961), in the embroidery workroom in Cinisello Balsamo (1962); in the sewing workroom in Vicenza (1967) where she also studied theology for three years and became an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister; at the Souvenir shops in St. Peter's, Rome RA

(1977); in the embroidery workroom in Rome RA (1991); and finally, for health reasons, in the Blessed Timothy Community in Rome (2006).

From her writings, especially those of the later years, there transpires an increasing awareness of the passing of time and almost an interior call for eternity. Here are some significant texts addressed to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General at that time: "Dear Sr. M. Regina, this Easter I thought to make this detachment. I am sending you this image that is very dear to me, feeling that my life is decreasing, this is a gift, a grace for the adoration. Pray for me that my *offering* might be pleasing to Jesus" (undated). The note from Alberione, which she attached, is truly significant and deserves to be made known: *Sr. M. Lourdes, devotion to the Eucharistic Jesus is the greatest consolation of this present life; it is like a foretaste of heaven for the soul that knows how to enter into intimacy with its Divine Master. He is there; and he is calling you: he wants to speak to you, to hear you; he wants to give to you: learn how to be with Jesus in the Host, like Mary was with Jesus at Nazareth. I bless you. M. Alberione (March 20, 1949).*

In various messages she manifests how the passage from a life dedicated to work to a life of increasing inactivity was a cause for suffering which she transformed into offering and prayer, and asks to be assisted in fulfilling the will of God. "*Remain with me, Lord, because night is falling, the day is ending*". *Dearest M. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General, I never understood as in this Easter, before Jesus Master touched me so deeply within my being. Yes, I was lacking in faith, I rebelled because of the state of my health. But Easter opened my eyes, I understood that God asks my life as it is; to serve him like this: I will never tell him again that I am tired, but I will say: Here I am, Lord! I will serve you this way, may your will be done. I do not want to waste any more time, but I offer this day that what God wills may be fulfilled: for the Congregation, for Priests, for vocations. I ask for a prayer (February 22, 2011).*

In these years, Sr. M. Lourdes sowed many Rosaries in our courtyards, in the green areas that she crossed quickly, reciting them from the early hours of the day.

Significantly, her return to the House of the Father was encased between two Marian feasts: *Mary, Queen of the Apostles*, and the new Memorial of *Mary, Mother of the Church* on the Monday after Pentecost, the day we commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the entire Church gathered in prayer with Mary. Only two days ago, in receiving the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist as Viaticum, she was anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit. She was thus ready for the great exodus from this earthly homeland to the Promised Land.

Her face, composed in the sleep of death, communicates the longing for the Father's House, and those who see her for the first time affirm: "*she is praying*"!

She was willing to accept every treatment that the sisters offered attentively, with patience and love, remaining with her until the final passage caused by cardiac insufficiency.

Sr. M. Lourdes, now that you are before the Most Holy Trinity, united with Jesus and Mary, you will certainly continue the intercession you began on earth: for the Congregation, for Priests, for vocations!

*S. H. Paolo Hancini*