



Dear Sisters,

Today, September 25, 2019, in the community of Albano, at 8:30 AM, the Lord called to eternity our sister,

SR. M. ANTONIETTA - SPINILLO ANTONIA
BORN IN SANT'ARSENIO (SALERNO) – ITALY, ON DECEMBER 2, 1930

She came from a healthy and faith-filled family environment. The Pastor presented her to our Congregation as a young woman of "optimal conduct". A seamstress by profession, she faced a great deal of resistance from her family, which then relented. Encouraged by Sr. M. Celeste Falletti and also by the Founder, Blessed J. Alberione, Antonietta arrived in Rome on July 1, 1952, and left the following day for Alba as a postulant. Primo Maestro had written to her: "If you enter with the Pious Disciples you will have many blessings and consolations. Take courage! We are waiting for you. We are offering many prayers. Blessings". On March 24, 1954, she entered the Novitiate in Alba, but almost immediately the group was transferred to Portuense in Rome, which became the new site of the Novitiate. It was April 9, 1954. Antonietta made her first profession on March 25, 1955, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1960, always in Rome.

Here, after qualifying for the Istituto Magistrale, she received her diploma in Religious Sciences from "Regina Mundi". Upon completion of her studies, in September of 1961 Sr. M. Antonietta was assigned as elementary school teacher and formator of the *Immacolatini*, that is, the group of children received in the Casa di Centrale di Zugliano (Vicenza) as pre-seminarians. This initiative, explicitly desired by Blessed James Alberione and followed by him with frequent visits and interest, was an experience that lasted only a few years, but left a lasting impression on their lives, with a special remembrance for Sr. M. Antonietta and the other sisters who were present. In 1965 she left the house in Centrale temporarily and was sent to Alba as assistant to the aspirants of the Sister Disciples. She would then return to the *Immacolatini* for another year until 1968. In 1969 Sr. M. Antonietta was called to Rome to offer her collaboration as National Secretary for the FIRAD for a three-year period. In 1973 she was appointed Local Superior in the community of Naples. In 1975 she would be in Ariccia as a residential member of the Center for Pauline Spirituality, formed by members from the various Institutes of the Pauline Family. In 1976, however, Sr. M. Antonietta returned to Rome because she was appointed as a Regional Councilor; she would fulfill this ministry until 1983. She then spent a year in Sanfrè, where her elderly mother had been received. Then, in 1984, she returned to the Centrale di Zugliano, but this time for the animation of groups since the house had been transformed into a house of prayer. In 1991 she was again Local Superior in the community of Naples and in 1994, coordinating the new house in Bari. From 1994 onward, she was in the Regina Apostolorum community in Rome, dedicated with undeniable precision in the sewing workroom.

In her letters to the various Superiors General in office, she expressed gratitude together with a certain preoccupation for the perception that around her there was a decrease in fervor in prayer and in sustaining the turns of Eucharistic adoration, to which she was always faithful for as long as her health permitted.

Sr. M. Antonietta especially loved to pray in the Church of Jesus Master and, unable to do so in these past months, she always hoped to return there. Always attentive and scrupulous regarding her health issues, she was caught almost by surprise by a serious and already advanced form of pancreatic cancer. The sisters testify that she accepted with incredible serenity the rapid progression of this disease which concluded with the Lord's call to the eternal wedding feast. During these last days she was comforted by the reception of the Anointing of the Sick and the Holy Eucharist which, this morning, was the *viaticum* of her great exodus toward the House of the Father, accompanied by Jesus Master: the great love of her life as a disciple! As the Congregation is celebrating the continental meetings, the life of Sr. M. Antonietta leaves to us the heritage of the beauty of a vocation lived in its fullness despite human frailty. Let us make our own the prayer with which, in 2007, she concluded the story of her vocation: "Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life, send us many and holy vocations that we may continue to adore, serve, and proclaim you with our life and our apostolate. Amen!" Dear Sister: MAY YOU LIVE IN GOD!

Sr. M. Regina Casereto