



Dear Sisters,

Today, October 20, 2019, World Mission Sunday, at the hospital of Bordighera (Imperia), at 2:40 PM, the Lord called to himself our sister,

SR. M. PANAGHIA – PIA GHIGI
born on August 20, 1923 in Rimini.

Of the 5 siblings, three are Sister Disciples: Pia, the eldest, entered the Congregation in Alba on April 4, 1937, coming from San Paolo, a small hamlet in the province of Rimini. Just as her date of birth is typically Pauline, so also her date of entrance into the Pauline Family. In her will, her mother affirmed: *"I wish to offer my final greetings: my strength is lacking, and I feel that the time is near when I will join your dear father. I ask forgiveness of all, for all the times I have displeased you. I only want to give thanks to the Lord for all my dear children: for having given me three daughters who, despite my unworthiness, are religious sisters (Sr. M. Panaghia, Sr. M. Candida, Sr. M. Luisangela) and who have never given me any displeasure; we cried and rejoiced together».*

The pastor presented her affirming that, since Pia Ghigi had repeatedly requested to enter a religious community, and he saw in her all the necessary qualities of conduct, of temperament, and of courage required of a young woman, he introduced her to the Institute, providing the best guarantees for optimal moral conduct, and expressing his confidence. After the initial formation she made her first profession in Alba (CN) on April 14, 1941, receiving an uncommon name in honor of the Madonna *"all holy"*. She made her perpetual profession on April 14, 1946, on the vigil of a critical period for the life of our Institute.

Following first profession, she spent the first years dedicated to the diffusion of the Gospel and in the bookstores in Novara and in Alba. From 1945 to 1953, she was in Alba to help in the infirmary and as assistant in the novitiate. From 1953 to 1957, she was local superior in the small community of Bologna; although it was a community of only 4 sisters living in an apartment, the adoration was maintained with the assistance of women they knew from the Liturgical Apostolate. This was due to the Eucharistic sensibility of Sr. M. Panaghia who shared it with the sisters.

From 1957 to 1964, she was responsible for the youngest candidates, called *Immacolatine*, who were received in the house of Cinisello Balsamo (Milan). From 1964 to 1967 she was in Alba once again, with the older and younger aspirants.

She fulfilled several terms as local superior: in Florence (1967), Naples (1971), Sanfrè (1973), Rimini (1976) and Cinisello Balsamo (1979). She returned to Rimini from 1981 to 2006, where she collaborated in the Liturgical Apostolate Center and dedicated herself to various ministries. Here she attended courses for pastoral workers, and dedicated herself to serve as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist in a clinic where they looked forward to seeing her every Sunday. She

integrated the service at the Liturgical Apostolate Center with the service of washing the altar linens of the Church when requested by priests who were alone and poor.

Sr. M. Panaghia is often recalled under the title of *mother*, almost as if to confirm the maternal spirit that she displayed with kindness and humanity, with an integral care for the person from both the physical and spiritual perspectives. She recognized the gifts of the sisters and promoted their growth and expression in both the young and the adults. Coming from the school of formation of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, she provided for the interior work for herself as well as for the others for whom she was responsible in the formation.

Today's Liturgy presents us with the widow who realized the invitation of Jesus to pray always, without tiring, and we can say that this certainly applies to our sister, Sr. M. Panaghia. Her existence was characterized by precarious health and pathological and traumatic events, which were faced with ever greater serenity and courage, never ceasing to offer herself for anyone in need. In her last days she also faced severe respiratory insufficiency due to acute pulmonary disease that would lead to her death. The sisters were very close to her!

Her passage into eternity in these days in which the superiors of the Province of Italy are gathered in assembly constitutes a sign and a guarantee of intercession before the Heavenly Father for the journey of the Province, in moving forward and being guided by the Spirit!

S. M. Paolo Mancini