



Dear Sisters

Yesterday, December 17, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the community of Albano Laziale (RM) as the time of awaiting the Lord becomes more intense for all of us, He invited our sister to the eternal wedding feast

**SR. M. CRISANTINA VENERA COLETTA**  
**born on October 16, 1924, in Avola (SR).**

Venera, attracted to the Divine Master more than to the fragrance of the orange blossoms of her native land, came to know the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, entered the Congregation in Syracuse on October 27, 1945, and moved to Alba in 1947. There she began her novitiate on April 3, 1947. She made her religious profession in Alba (CN) on April 4, 1948, and her perpetual profession on April 4, 1953. During the time of her novitiate she experienced the joy of the pontifical approval of the Institute and this strengthened the love she already had for the Congregation. With regard to her canonical examination, it was written of her: *«It seems to me that she is well prepared: decided - content - willing to live the life of a Sister Disciple»*.

Before his death, Father Timothy Giaccardo personally drew up the meaning of this new name writing: *«A beautiful name: do you like "flower of gold"? flower of pure love, of beautiful love, of precious love; Maria Crisantina!»* and Mother M. Lucia Ricci added: *«And I greet you and pray that you may live it fully and that this "flower of gold" may be greatly pleasing to the Guest of the Tabernacle»*.

After profession, Sr. M. Crisantina spent some years in Switzerland, travelling many roads to bring the Gospel, following the example of Jesus. She returned to Alba in 1951, where she dedicated herself to the preparation of liturgical vestments and, after a short time, she was asked to go as a missionary to Mexico. *«On June 17, Sr. Maria Crisantina Coletta travelled on the ship Saturnia, to the house of Mixcoac (Mexico)»* (Divin Maestro, July 1953), less than a year after the foundation of our presence in that country. She bore precious witness for the charismatic values and for the initiation of young Mexican women to the preparation of vestments. Although she was loved by the sisters and affectionate toward the dear *Virgencita* of Guadalupe, she was ready for the detachment from Mexico in order to go on a new mission. Obedience would bring her to Columbia as the local Superior for the sisters at the Society of St. Paul. In 1968, she offered her apostolic collaboration in another nation, and specifically in Santiago, Chile, always in the community of our Pauline brothers. She was admirable for the flexibility that enabled her to be ready to fly wherever she was needed. In 1971, with a passage to Rome, she was transferred to France at Nogent sur Marne, in the sewing workroom. In 1974 she returned to Italy definitively where she continued to offer her service in the workroom. She was greatly appreciated not only for her generosity, but also for her scrupulous precision wherever she was sent: Catania (1974), Bologna (1975) Catania SP (1977) Vicenza (1982) Palermo (1983); Blessed Timothy Community in Rome (1989), Albano DM (1995), Rome RA (2003), Palermo (2003), and finally Albano as an elderly and progressively infirm sister (2011).

In 2002, writing to the undersigned, she said: *«Thank you from bringing me the greetings and souvenir from the Sisters in Mexico. I also love them very much. Mexico is my second*

*homeland, and therefore I consider myself Mexican! When I left for Columbia, there were already 50 sisters and now I carry in my heart not only those, but all of them. Not being able to go for this occasion was a great renunciation because I wanted to go to the Morenita. I received many graces from her... I made this sacrifice willingly for the glorification of Primo Maestro and for the entire Pauline Family, as well as for all of us»* (October 20, 2002). The lengthy period of time spent in Latin America marked the personality of Sr. M. Crisantina, making her sensitive and attentive to all the persons she met who were coming from other countries, especially from Latin America. It can be said that interculturality was in her blood.

Prayer filled the days for this dear elderly sister who, until the end, did everything possible to go to chapel, especially for the adoration. The deepest motivation at the center of her long life was the offering and prayer for priests, according to the mandate entrusted to her by Primo Maestro. Recently she fractured her femur and her health situation worsened. Her return to the Father's House was caused by heart failure.

The Lord fulfilled the intense longing of this sister, which remained lively and strong until the end of her days. Her prayer now continues before the Throne of God for priests and for the entire Family, especially those in the nations in which she served as a missionary: Italy, Mexico, Columbia, Chile and France! May you live in joy forever, Sr. M. Crisantina, flower of gold representing us before the Lord who is coming to save us!

*S. H. Paolo Hauviri*