



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 1, 2020, at 4:00 AM, as nature reawakens for the new day, in Blessed Timothy Community in Rome, the Risen Lord went to encounter his disciple and our sister

**Sr. M. TEOFILA - CARMELINA VIOTTO
born on November 18, 1926 in Perosa Argentina – TO (Italy).**

On September 12, 1953, Carmelina entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Alba, Casa Madre, to join the group of aspirants, despite the fact that her age was not considered to be among the youngest at that time. She was almost 27 years of age, and the sixth of eight children. She worked in a silk mill as a textile comber and spinner; in her free time she learned sewing and styling; in the parish she enjoyed the trust of the young people. In fact, she was the president of a diocesan youth association. She shared her desire for consecrated life with her pastor, and he introduced her in this way: *“For some years this good daughter has seriously desired to serve the Lord in a religious congregation. God willing, may she find with you the way to serve Christ the King, to whom she has offered her heart and life some time ago”* (Fr. M. Ambrosiani, July 27, 1953). Upon receiving the letter of admission to the Institute, Carmelina wrote to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, the Superior General at that time: *“Reverend Mother, returning home from work on Thursday I saw your letter with joy. I did not know what it contained yet, but that same morning, as I received Jesus, I entrusted myself entirely to him that he may do with me as he sees best. I was therefore prepared; then when I read your confirmation I felt within myself something like a hymn of thanksgiving and praise to God for his immense goodness. I was filled with great joy... I consider the religious vocation as the greatest gift God can give to a soul...it is the surest way to reach the heavenly homeland, but the soul must correspond until the end to its special call”* (August 24, 1953).

Upon completion of the novitiate, she made her religious profession in Alba (CN) on March 25, 1956, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1961. Expressing her desire regarding the apostolate, she wrote: *“I have always longed to be like a mother to youth and especially to Aspirants for the Priesthood, but I am always willing to do everything”*.

For her age and education, she proved herself to be a reserved sister with a strong sense of responsibility, although her health was fragile. Therefore, the life of Sr. M. Teofila was primarily spent at the houses of the Society of Saint Paul; in domestic service and adoration, to which she was most faithful and from which she drew strength and meaning each day. From 1956 to 1982, in fact, she fulfilled this apostolate in various Pauline communities: Rome S. Giuseppe, Vicenza, Turin – at various times – Alba CMSP, Rome SP, Catania.

When her health became even more fragile, she was forced to retire to the *Regina Apostolorum* Community in Via Portuense, Rome, where, despite poor eyesight, she offered her services at the switchboard and as portress for many years (1982 – 2006). She was then received into the infirmary

at the Blessed Timothy Community, where she continued her apostolate of prayer and of suffering, entrusted to the care of the sisters to whom she continually manifested great appreciation. The name she received at profession – M. Teofila: “she who loves God” or “beloved of God” – characterized her personality. Especially in these last years of her infirmity, in fact, it seemed as if she had no preoccupation other than remaining oriented toward God and her longing to meet him. Sr. M. Teofila concluded her long and suffering existence in the silence of the night, just as she lived in silence. Her faltering health was aggravated by her inability to see and hear, which rendered her especially sensitive and delicate toward others, whose nearness she appreciated ever more. May the Virgin, tender mother of Christ here on earth, received you, O Sr. M. Teofila! May you join the ranks of the Pauline Sisters and Brothers already enjoying the beatific vision.

Sr. M. Michaela Moneth'