



Dearest Sisters,

Today 27 February 2021, at 3.30 pm, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), our Sister celebrated her definitive Easter

SR. M. MARTA GIULIANA BONVECCHI
Born on 10 May 1944 in Cingoli (MC).

Giuliana entered the Congregation in Rome on May 1, 1962. Having completed her regular initial formation, she makes her First Profession on March 25, 1965 and perpetual vows, also in Rome, March 25, 1971. She is the niece of two Pious Disciples: Sr. M. Ignazia Bellagamba († 14.02.2000), a missionary in Mexico for over 15 years and of Sr. M. Fulgenzia Bellagamba († 25.12.2011), a lifelong missionary in the United States, where her body now rests. Surely the aunts contributed to her vocational journey and their testimony attracted the young Juliana who, with the enthusiasm of her 18 years, placed herself in following Jesus the Divine Master.

The initial period of her religious life is dedicated to completing basic studies and to carry out nursing studies, obtaining the diploma of professional nurse in Florence in 1968. She will then complete the service of nurse initially in Sanfrè (CN) (1969 - 1970), in Rome with the preparation for perpetual vows, then again in Sanfrè (1971 - 1972), in Milan at the **Società San Paolo** (1972 - 1973) and then in Cinisello Balsamo (1973 - 1987). Here, in addition to the infirmary, she is dedicated to various tasks that could be said of the local bursar: pensions practices, care of donors, driver for the communities, sourcing, etc. Everything always in a particular attitude of dedication and service, appreciated for her kindness, care and precision.

In 2001, with the beginning of the renovation of the house in Cinisello Balsamo, she moved to the Sanfrè house where she will attend to various tasks, according to the possibility of her health. She expresses the spirit that animated her in her writings to the sisters who exercised authority: *«I am in a continuous service that I do so much from my heart for the Lord, but also for the good of the community, of a*

sister in particular need, for the good of the Congregation. So, I have always acted and done. With right intention, I have tried to do and always seek the good. I hope that the Lord will forgive the shortcomings of my poverty and misery. I am happy and offer my sacrifices, my prayers for you too and the Council that I remember so much with affection and great esteem. In this Pauline year I try to read Saint Paul more and to put it into practice» (To Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Sanfrè 13.08.2008). At the conclusion of the Spiritual Exercises, 04.09.2016, she shares with Sr. M. Giovanna Colombo, then Provincial Superior, her spiritual program from which I extract: «Do not leave prayer for any reason; always forgive like the Merciful Jesus; meditate often on the Word of God to make for myself a Gospel mentality; avoid waste in everything and for everything, in handling money and things of the Congregation; avoid continuous use of the mobile phone».

Sr. M. Marta had several health ailments with which she had learned to live with. She carried her cross behind Jesus, with abandon and trust in Him. In this second phase of *Covid* in Italy, close to the feast of Jesus Master, she was positive. Immediately isolated, she was admitted to the Verduno hospital (CN) where she remained for a long time until she tested negative. Once she returned to the community she carried within herself the mysterious consequences of the virus, offering her physical and moral suffering with an apostolic spirit. She experienced the benevolent support of the community, the accompaniment and help of the sisters and nursing staff. Having recently met the Provincial Superior, Sr. M. Paola Gasperini who she wanted to greet, with the simplicity of the little ones of the Gospel, she simply said to her: *I love you!*

In these first Vespers of the Second Sunday of Lent, she was called to climb the holy mountain of the Transfiguration to contemplate forever the luminous face of Jesus Master, his splendid, brilliant white robes! Sr. M. Marta, intercede with the Heavenly Father for new vocations, for all the needs of the Italian Province, apostolic, vocational and also economic ones, which you have always well understood!

Sr. H. Paolo Mancini