



*Dear Sisters,*

On April 11, 2021, during the Octave of Easter, from RSA "Gesú Maestro" in Cinisello Balsamo, at 4:40 PM, the Risen Lord definitively called to himself our sister

**SR. M. EMANUELA – IRENE VOLPI**  
**born on July 2, 1934, in Seveso (MI - Italy).**

Many communities in Italy were gathered for the celebration of the Second Vespers and her life ascended like the perfume of incense pleasing to God, accompanied by the singing of the *Magnificat* by the sisters who were celebrating the manifestation of the Risen One to the incredulous disciple, Thomas!

The young Irene presented herself to the Mother General at that time: "I am a young woman, 24 years old, and I recently came to know the Sister Disciples through Sr. M. Pierpaola (*Petitti*) and Mother Amata (*Antonini*). Since I feel that I am called to the religious life, I am especially interested in your Institute, both for its liturgical piety as well as for the desire to be available to the Clergy not only by prayer but also in the various forms of activity" (January 23, 1959). Then she stated: "...I ask that you permit me to enter as an aspirant of the Sisters Pious Disciples of the Divine Master in the Institute which you are directing. If you agree, I would choose to enter on November 21, 1959, the Presentation of the Virgin Mary" (March 1, 1959). On the established day, she entered the Congregation in Alba (CN). She went to Rome for the novitiate, at the end of which she made her first profession on March 25, 1962, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1967. She was presented by those responsible for the formation as a young woman who was decisive and conscious of her vocation, with a vivacious, serene, and generous temperament; less respectful of the discipline, but industrious, responsible and active in the apostolate.

She completed her human and religious formation completing her diploma in Accounting, specializing in business, in Milan in 1976. She then frequented the Facoltà Teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale in Milan, as an auditor.

Her apostolic ministry in the Congregation was carried out in various commitments: in Rome, Via Portuense, in the mailing of the magazine *La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa* (1962-1964); collaboration in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers in Turin

(1964); in Bologna (1971), in Milan with responsibility for the accounting (1973). During two separate periods, first while residing in Rome RA (1966 – 1971) and later while residing in the community of Saint Mary Major, in Rome (1978 – 1986), she would offer her collaboration in an important ecclesial service, working in the secretariat for USMI Nazionale, that is, the union of major superiors of the various religious institutes of women in Italy. Here she gave a valid contribution to the publication of the magazine, *Consacrazione e Servizio*, earning the esteem and benevolence of the Presidents. She thus acquired a vision of the consecrated life in the ecclesial dimension which she was able to communicate to the sisters. In 1986 she was asked to work as an accountant at CIL (International Liturgical Center) in the General House, and then from 2003, in the Vatican at the Souvenir centers at St. Peter's.

Sr. M. Emanuela cared for her interior life in alliance with her profound call, preferring to make the Spiritual Exercises with personalized accompaniment which, with respect to her personality, oriented her journey and her person toward God.

In 2017, since her health required greater care, she was transferred to the community of Sanfrè. Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, the Superior General at that time, wrote to her: *«I wish to thank you abundantly for the apostolic service of your entire life. Now the moment has come to leave the direct apostolate and to continue living that of the interior life, of prayer and of offering. I thank God for all you have given in the Congregation and for your profound journey of faith which will assist you in facing the difficulties of the change that comes for everyone at a certain point in our life...»* (February 7, 2017).

She would remain in Sanfrè from February 9, 2017 until last February 11, when she was transferred to RSA Gesù Maestro in Cinisello Balsamo. Her mental and physical conditions continued to decline until the completion of her earthly pilgrimage in this time of Easter Alleluia, of praising the Lord for the work of grace he fulfills in his little ones.

Sr. M. Emanuela, as you encounter the Risen Jesus, ask him strength for the Institutes of consecrated life in Italy who are undergoing trials and, for us, the grace to open our eyes to the projects of Divine Providence, which cares for his children and challenges us to assume a united and sober economic management in the Province of Italy and in the Congregation.

*S. H. Paolo Hancock*