



*Dear Sisters,*

At dawn today, February 7, 2022, at 6:20 AM, in the Beato Timoteo Giaccardo Community (Rome), the Divine Master showed his face to our sister

**SR. M. IRIDE – AGNESE MANCOSU**  
**Born on April 22, 1944 in Siliqua (Cagliari).**

Agnese came from the Sulcitan country, in the southwest part of Sardinia, surrounded by an enchanting territory consisting of water, woods, and volcanic rock near Cagliari. This natural environment formed her character in beauty and firmness. She left her beloved parents, her four brothers and three sisters and her dear island home to enter the Congregation in Rome on January 6, 1963, accompanying the Magi on their search for Jesus. Following the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1965. She received the name Iride meaning: *proclamation of the light*. *May not only your name, but your entire life be a “proclamation of light” through serene faith, good example, prayer. In the footsteps of Mary Most Holy, may the proclamation of her birth fill the entire world with joy. Prayer: for priests who are teachers; and the mission: CHINA.*

It is a particularly significant intention that gives an exceptional color to her offering and the conclusion of her earthly pilgrimage almost at the vigil of the perpetual profession of Sr. M. Lixia Zhang, our Chinese sister, who seals her covenant with the Divine Master next February 10 in the Church of Jesus Master in Rome.

In her various requests, Sr. M. Iride constantly expressed this thought: *I am grateful for all the means the Congregation has given me after the religious profession for my sanctification and to understand ever better her spirit*. She made her perpetual profession on March 25, 1971, always in Rome.

The mission entrusted to Sr. M. Iride has a wide ecclesial breadth: her service involved apostolic periods in the Liturgical Apostolate Centers (in Vicenza, Milan, Florence, and later in Catania, Cagliari, Trento, SMM Rome and Bari). Then she was asked to collaborate at the Edizioni Paoline center (1969-1978) together with another Sister Disciple, working in the secretariat and the archives. She then offered her collaboration in accounting for the telephone switchboard (1978-1979); then from 1990-1992 she was in the secretariat for the Fabbrica di San Pietro. From 1992-1996 she offered her collaboration in the Office of Liturgical Ceremonies of the Holy Father, enriching herself with the treasure of the pro-

found universal sense that is possible to experience in these services. From 2011-2014 she was in the secretariat of the Associazione Italiana Santa Cecilia, which is concerned with sacred music and liturgical songs and provides for the formation of the animators.

From 2014 she joined the Beato Timoteo community, at first providing various services and then as a resident.

In fact, since the end of the 1990's, Sr. M. Iride had "*undifferentiated systemic connective tissue disease*", an autoimmune disorder. This disease gradually involved all of the body's organs and systems; requiring numerous and periodic examinations, therapies - some of which were still experimental, periodic clinical controls and hospitalizations. Despite these, the disease progressed until it led to her death.

Sr. M. Iride was a particularly sensitive sister, capable of living intensely her apostolate and freely expressing her feelings; her smile was contagious. When this disappeared, it was because the suffering, including physically, prevailed. The doctor also noted that she understood when she was very sick because she no longer smiled during her last days.

Sr. M. Iride served the Divine Master as a woman-disciple-apostle with the totality of her being and her femininity, in the joy of being consecrated. She loved prayer, especially the adoration, as a moment of intense encounter with the Divine Master, and she was capable of giving herself to the sisters, according to her possibilities. Even in the midst of her own serious illness, she continued to show interest in the community. She was serene in her offering and ready to do God's will.

This past February 2, on the Day of Consecrated Life, she had the consolation of receiving the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, surrounded by the prayer of the community.

She experienced the care of the sisters who are nurses and the personnel assisting them, and she was very grateful.

Sr. M. Iride, from Heaven, continue to intercede for the Congregation journeying toward the 10th General Chapter and especially for our mission in China, an intention that motivated you in life!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*