



*Dear Sisters,*

Today, April 24, 2022, *Domenica in Albis or Divine Mercy Sunday*, at 2:00 AM in the heart of the night, from the Beato Timoteo Community in Rome, the Lord called our sister to celebrate the eternal Passover

**SR. M. GIORGINA - MARIA BUTANO**  
**born on December 9, 1933, in Bronte (Catania).**

The native place of this sister is known for the pistacchio: a small but tasty fruit. It is easily associated with the good vocational fruits which, in years past, we have enjoyed as a religious family!

Before the conclusion of 1933 – the Holy Year of the Redemption – on December 28, 1933, the newborn Maria was immersed in the waters of baptism which made her a daughter of God. She grew up in a large family – she was the fourth of six sisters and one brother – a profoundly Christian family which created a favorable climate for her vocational choice. Therefore the pastor, upon request for a testimony regarding the entrance of Maria into the Congregation, was able to affirm: *«The undersigned declares that the young woman Butano Maria di Antonio, from this Parish, a member of the Association of Catholic Action of Maria SS.ma del Riparo, has always given signs of good customs and frequenting the Sacraments»*. In faith, *The Pastor Archpriest Luigi Longhitano*.

Maria entered the Congregation in Catania on October 7, 1951, to be followed later by her sisters Sr. M. Guglielmina (deceased in 1995) and by Sr. M. Francesca, who is currently in Albano Laziale. She continued her initial formation in Alba and in Rome, where, at the conclusion of the novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1955. In her written requests for admission to the various stages of consecrated life, the motivations for her choice appear clearly and simply but essential: *«With increasing awareness of the obligations of religious life, and being ever more content that I have embraced them, I ask humbly and confidently to be admitted to the renewal of the holy religious vows among the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master»* (14.1.1956). *«After five years of religious profession I have come to understand the requirements of the religious life. I am content and I give thanks to the Lord that he has embraced me and therefore, consciously and with humility and confidence, I ask to be admitted to the perpetual profession in the Congregation of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master»* (20.1.1960). She professed her perpetual vows in Rome on March 25, 1960.

In the first years following her profession, she was in the sewing workroom or mending: at Alba - Casa Madre in 1955, at Rome - Casa Generalizia in 1960, at Bari in 1965, at Catania in 1969. In 1972 she spent a year in the Pauline community in London. She studied nursing and, in 1973, she obtained the license enabling her to work as a nurse's aide. Therefore, from 1973 until 1981 she worked as a nurse in Rome in the community *Regina Apostolorum*, in the meantime completing the requirements for her diploma (1978). In 1981 she was transferred to Naples (Bellavista) then, in 1986 to Naples (Divine Master) and then to Genoa in 1997. Since 1998 she returned to the *Regina Apostolorum* Community working as a nurse with charity and generosity until 2014 when she was transferred to the Beato Timoteo community due to her declining health.

What Sr. M. Giorgina did not write on paper, she wrote in the life of the persons through the exercise of her helpful charity. She did not scorn the sacrifice of visiting the sick in the hospitals at inconvenient times, or anything else that required sacrifice or increased generosity. In order to live this continual offering of herself, she drew strength from the daily Eucharist in the diligence of the adoration and the encounter with the Bridegroom, habitually in the first hours of the day.

It is not easy to summarize, albeit briefly, the health situation lived by our dear Sr. M. Giorgina. The attention to her physical health, which was already precarious from a young age, alternated, especially in the last years of service, to the care of the sisters in the *Regina Apostolorum* Community in via Portuense (Rome): hospitalizations, various types of research, increasingly frequent visits with specialists.

For some years she had left her service to others due to the worsening of her condition, but she was never lacking in attention to those who were in need. Although immobilized in bed for many years, she always manifested gratitude to those who took turns at her bedside to offer her any type of service. She lived these years with extraordinary patience and sensitivity, attentive to the invitation to pray and to the proposal of offering her physical sufferings for particular intentions. She loved to sing praises to Mary, the Mother of God, with the sisters helping her or by herself. Her favorite song was: "*Andrò a vederla un dì*" [*One day I will go to see her*]. The penetrating and lively gaze of her eyes manifested silently, but sincerely, her gratitude and her desire to participate.

When Covid-19 made its entrance into the Beato Timoteo community, she was not spared from the contagion and, due to her highly compromised clinical picture, this contributed toward her passage into eternal life.

On the eighth day, in the heart of the night, the Risen Lord invited her to follow him and she, like Thomas, gave her response of adoring faith: *My Lord and my God!*

Today, on this Sunday in which we traditionally recall and pray for our novices, we entrust to her intercession these young women who are beginning among us in the consecrated life. Let us ask her to obtain for all the joyful experience of encountering the Lord of Life and following him with convinced dedication!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*