



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, Sunday, August 7, 2022, toward 10:00 PM, in the community of Beato Timoteo - Rome, our sister was prepared for the celebration of the eternal wedding feast upon the arrival of the Bridegroom

**SR. M. PIERCARLA – GIOVANNINA CONSONNI
born on October 3, 1929 in Osnago (Como).**

The second of 4 children, she was baptized on October 6, and was able to grow in the faith through the example and the help of her Christian parents, who experienced the sorrow of the premature deaths of their other 3 children. As Sr. M. Piercarla wrote upon the death of her mother. In fact, she testified that “certainly” she owed to her parents “besides the education in faith”, also her specific vocation as a Sister Disciple; they were happy “to have offered to the Lord their only remaining daughter”. Another favorable environment for her growth in the Christian life was the Parish in which she received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the hands of Cardinal Ildefonso Schuster, now Blessed, on September 17, 1940.

Participation in prayer and the sacramental life, the spiritual direction of her pastor, the formation received in the oratory and fighting in the ranks of Catholic Action, helped Giovannina to assume responsibility in life and in the journey of faith. While she was working as a seamstress, at the Rinascente in Milan, at 23 years of age she wrote to Mother M. Lucia Ricci asking to be admitted to our Congregation “with a lively desire to consecrate herself to God”. She wrote: “if your response is affirmative, I can realize this dream”. Other Sister Disciples, from the same region, had preceded her in this choice, bearing witness to the beauty of dedicating oneself to God in a life consumed by charity and lived in the continual school of the Word and of the Eucharist, in community life and in the apostolate.

After her entrance into the Congregation, in Alba (CN) on July 16, 1952, and the stages of the initial formation ending in the year of Novitiate, she made her first religious profession on March 25, 1955 in Rome, receiving a “new name” that would recall her father, Carlo, and her mother, Carolina. In the Eternal City, she also made her perpetual profession on March 25, 1960.

From the time of temporary vows, she was sent for specific studies to complete her intellectual, spiritual and apostolic formation. After completing her master’s degree (1958) and the diploma in accounting (in July 1961) she worked in the central location for the administration of the Liturgical Apostolate Centers in Rome.

Sr. M. Piercarla, a person who was intelligent, capable and well-grounded in the

spirituality and mission of the Institute, from 1963 was entrusted with responsibilities in the formation, first with the young postulants (1963) and then with the novices from 1966 to 1971 and, after an interval, from 1981 to 1983. In this service, it was helpful for her to attend classes at “Mater Divinae Gratiae” (1966-1967) for formation leaders.

In addition to these formation commitments, we must add various roles in governance, such as General Councilor (1966) and Local Superior, especially in Milan and in Rome, at the General House as well as in the Provincial House, at Saint Mary Major and, at various times, in the large community of *Regina Apostolorum* on Via Portuense. Through the initiative of Primo Maestro, she was sent to accompany two newly forming institutes: the Missionarie ecumeniche (Ecumenical Missionaries) and the Ancelle di Gesù Sacerdote (Handmaids of Jesus Priest).

Attentive to the sisters and gifted with the ability for organization in the community life and the apostolate, she allowed herself to be assisted in dealing with the complexity of the many needs of the persons and of the house, giving priority to her prayer life. Habitually intense days were lived in the presence of the Lord, to whom she entrusted especially the sisters who were her novices and whom she continued to follow without ever omitting a response to their letters, at least for as long as her physical and mental energies permitted.

In her vocation story, Sr. M. Piercarla wrote that in the Congregation “the new and desired family that was always loved, also in facts, with trust and a serious commitment”, she found “Mothers and sisters, true and secure guides, fraternal communities that were zealous and apostolically active, always close to me in joy and especially in the inevitable sufferings... thus collaborating in my formation to advance in piety, joyfully and actively, also through the little and not-so-little difficulties, and capable of transforming everything into a springboard”. What she says about the sisters, we can and desire to say about her, a sister and mother in our journey of discipleship. In fact, as Sr. M. Piercarla loved to repeat: “All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose...” (*Rm* 8:28-30). We give thanks to the Lord for the gift of her life and for the treasure of the gifts God gave her for the good of many persons, throughout her long life.

Sr. M. Piercarla gave her contribution to the apostolate even when, in April of 2015, she was already elderly but her health was still discreet, she was transferred to the community of Beato Timoteo and committed, for some hours each day, to the accounting office. In July of 2019 she was hospitalized due to a fracture of the right femur, which was followed by a gradual deterioration of her general health through cardiac insufficiency and other respiratory complications which, during the day yesterday, led to the conclusion like a candle, breathing ever more slowly, until her death.

Assisted with great love and dedication by the sisters and the staff, Sr. M. Piercarla left this world and now lives in God. Certainly she will intercede for the Congregation in the preparation for the 10th General Chapter and for all the intentions that she carried in her heart and that caused her suffering and rejoicing. Live in God, dear sister and mother, and rest in peace from all your many labors!

Sr. M. Regina Casereto