



Dear Sisters,

Today, October 11, 2022, the 60th anniversary of the beginning of Vatican Council II, at 2:30 PM, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), our sister returned to the Father's House

SR. M. STEFANIA, GIUSEPPINA PIUMATTI
born on August 15, 1930, in Fossano (CN).

She received baptism on August 19, 1930 in San Lorenzo di Fossano, at the same baptismal font at which Blessed Fr. James Alberione was baptized. Having breathed the same air in the same spiritual climate contributed to the formation of a radical Pauline spirit in the young generations of that time. Besides the parents, the family consists of 4 daughters, who were always united in the human and Christian journey. As an adolescent, Giuseppina entered the Congregation on August 8, 1943, in Casa Madre in Alba, followed two years later by Caterina, her slightly older sister, who received the name Sr. M. Laurenzia at her religious profession.

In her vocational story, Giuseppina expresses herself in this way: *«You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you. This phrase concretized me in the conviction that only God is the foundation of my vocation, even if there are other significant mediations...*

I grew up in a farming family that was poor but not miserable. The third of 4 sisters. The work and shared living was serene and Christian. In that rural environment, of which I retain a lively memory, my vocation to the consecrated life was born. It was not possible to understand the importance of it, but I believe that the Lord was not asking me to understand but to follow his voice». She also emphasized that the gatherings of Catholic Action were incisive for her youthful formation in the Christian faith.

Giuseppina completed her initial formation in Alba, making her First Profession on March 25, 1949, and her Perpetual Profession on March 25, 1954, always in Alba.

Following the profession, she began her apostolic itinerary with collaboration in the ironing workshop in Alba, at the Society of Saint Paul. She spent three years in the DM House in Bologna, and returned to the Society of Saint Paul in Rome, always in the workroom. She then went to the workroom for vestments in Florence and then in Bologna. In 1959 she began a series of mandates as local superior: in Genoa and then in Bologna. From 1966 until 1968 she worked at the warehouse for the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Rome. From 1968, she resumed, in successive mandates, the ministry of local superior: in Milan RA, Cinisello Balsamo, again in Milan, Bologna and Florence. From 1978 until 1981, she was appointed as a Councilor in the first government of the Region of Italy. In 1988 she was responsible for the workrooms in the RA House in Rome. In 1997 she was appointed local superior in Naples and then, *ad tempus*, in RA Rome. After a period of various duties in Rome, she was appointed local superior in RA Milan.

Sr. M. Stefania was a person of prayer who kept at heart the spiritual life, which she nurtured in the communities. She was characterized by a maternal heart and humane treatment that rendered her attentive and sensitive to the needs of the sisters. She knew how to enhance the joy without omitting the celebrations! These characteristics often led to the sisters indicating her as a potential local superior.

In 2006 she was sent to offer her service in the House of Prayer in Centrale, where she welcomed the guests and worked in the Liturgical Apostolate Center, diffusing love and decor of God's house and all that would foster prayer.

In 2016, her physical condition made it necessary to transfer to the house of Sanfrè. Afflicted with gallbladder problems, she was treated and followed through the various complications, which were compounded by the limits of old age. Today, almost unexpectedly, when she would have risen from her afternoon nap, she serenely made her passage into eternal life.

Some of her writings, in this mature stage of her life, bear witness to her joy and strong apostolic motivations: *«I accept with special attention the various circumstances and stimuli to intensely live our mission in the Church. I am enthusiastic about the life of the Church, the Pope, the priests; here we have many opportunities to participate in the apostolic life, especially through prayer. There are so many intentions that are entrusted to us! Woe to us if we remain indifferent, detached from the life of the Church. I can affirm that I consume my days in profound interior serenity. It is purely the gift of the Lord... There is only one thing that I desire and ask: to be absorbed, transformed daily in Him. To this end I often pray: O Jesus, live in me that I may live in you....*

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Congregation, especially to you, for what you have done for the infirm sisters. I am witness to the goodness with which I am assisted» (to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Epiphany of the Lord 2013).

And in another letter (January 30, 2011) she affirms: *«Although I am limited by my age, I am not closed to the new realities of living the mission. In this time, the Lord gives me a great deal of interior joy because of my vocation and mission, and I discovered the synthesis in Art. 16 of the Rule of Life: We bless the Father who, through the Spirit, unites us to the prayers of his Son, Jesus, who always lives to intercede for us. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ we become an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice to God, pronouncing our "Amen" to the salvation offered us. We contemplate reality through God's eyes and take care of our neighbor and all of creation with the same compassion, humility and respect of Jesus Master»*. In a letter from 2014, addressed to Sr. M. Giovanna Colombo, then Provincial Superior, she affirmed: *«A word to thank you for having enlightened and encouraged me in a more serene, but also more arduous journey of going serenely to the final goal. I want to radically commit my life in the Eucharistic mission for the Church and for the world. I am profoundly content to belong to Jesus»* (July 27, 2014).

The sensitivity to the ecclesial life, the essential dimension of our vocation and mission, is significant for all of us in preparation for the 10th General Chapter, and as we approach the beginning of the Centennial Jubilee of Foundation.

May Sr. M. Stefania, who has already been admitted to the contemplation of the Lord's Face, desire to ask this grace for every sister of the Congregation, to experience the beauty of the encounter and the joy of the mandate!

S. H. Paolo Haucman