



Dearest Sisters,

This morning, at 8 a.m., in the Giacomo Alberione community at Albano, the Divine Master drew to Himself and welcomed into His dwelling place of Light, our sister

**RIGHETTINI Sr. MARIA LUCIA**  
**born in Toscolano Maderno (Brescia) on July 28, 1930.**

Endowed with abundant human and spiritual gifts, Sr. M. Lucia shared with all of us—and with the entire Pauline Family—the richness of her heart, culture, and faith. She entered the Congregation in Alba on October 2, 1950, after being *awed* by the mission of bringing the Gospel to all, by the sacredness that permeated the technical apostolate, and by the simplicity and poverty of the community environments she had seen as a young woman when she visited. Above all, she was captivated by the beauty of *offering the charity of truth to everyone*, a mission that continued to illuminate her entire life.

In Alba, she felt surrounded by an atmosphere of deep spiritual and apostolic fervor. When she came to Rome in 1952 for her novitiate, she experienced the joy of participating daily in the solemn celebrations held in the newly inaugurated crypt of the *Regina Apostolorum* church, often presided over by Father Alberione himself. At the end of that year of grace, on March 19, 1953, she made her first profession and soon afterward was given the privilege of pursuing studies in philosophy and theology. She was then assigned to “Central” offices, the dynamic hub in Rome from which radiated the congregation’s apostolic animation to all the communities of Italy. She was often called on to travel to various dioceses where Marian, catechetical, or liturgical congresses were organized. On these occasions, the sisters from the graphics office in Rome would set up impressive exhibitions to illustrate and celebrate the events, a service in which she participated with enthusiasm and dedication.

In her later years, Sr. M. Lucia often shared cherished memories with the younger sisters in formation. Her recollections, always vivid, precise, and full of enthusiasm, reached back to the formative experiences she had lived in the community of Rome, moments that left an indelible mark on her heart. She spoke with emotion of the annual gatherings held around the Feast of St. Joseph, when the community would come together in the large hall and Sr. Assunta Bassi would offer the Founder feastday greetings, accompanied by a report on the year’s apostolic activities. She also fondly remembered Fr. Alberione’s enlightening instructions during conferences to update propagandists and sisters who served in the book centers, sessions in which she had been one of the most spirited and dedicated participants.

In 1964, Sr. M. Lucia was appointed a counselor for the Italian province and later became the formator for the large group of juniors residing in the Naples community. During these years, she was also blessed with valuable opportunities to deepen her understanding of Pauline thought and spirituality. She often recalled with gratitude the long period of preparation for the Special Chapter and its extended celebration (1967–1971), when she took part in the research and drafting of five foundational documents, one for each area of Pauline life. These texts gathered the community’s rich and shared reflections on the Institute’s identity in light of the Second Vatican Council’s teachings and became the basis for the Chapter Documents approved by the Special Chapter. After completing her term, she enthusiastically dedicated herself to preparing radio programs for the *Prayer Channel*—as it was affectionately called—before being called once again to serve on the study commission responsible for drafting the new Constitutions. Soon she was asked to serve as a member

of the study commission responsible for drafting the new text of the Constitutions, approved in January 1984 at the close of the Fifth General Chapter.

Sr. Lucia's institutional commitments were not yet finished: in 1985 she was appointed Provincial Superior of the Italian province, which then numbered more than a thousand members, a responsibility that was renewed for a second term. At the end of this arduous commitment, she was asked to be the local superior of the communities of Cremona and Trieste. It was in Trieste that she received a new “missionary” vocation. When the “Missionary Project” was beginning in 1993 she was chosen as a point of reference between the general government and the new communities of Eastern Europe (Moscow, Russia; Prague, Czech Republic; and Bucharest, Romania); she also served at the same time as the local superior of the community in Moscow. With simplicity, she responded to the Superior General by thanking the Lord who offered her this opportunity for a new “yes.”

But the surprises in Sr. M. Lucia’s journey did not end there. In 1995, she was assigned to Lyon and appointed Delegate Superior for France. With this new *yes*, one can glimpse the full greatness of this dear sister, who never hesitated before even the most demanding acts of obedience. She wrote: “I say ‘yes’ to France, welcoming within me this new reality, even though it fills me with fear... because of the fatigue of beginning again at my age, without knowing the language, and because an even greater cross may await me. I ask the Divine Master to help me say with my whole life: *My food is to do the will of the Father.*”

At the end of her term, she was again appointed group leader in the large Divine Providence community in Rome, local superior in Naples and of the Regina Apostolorum community, and then again local superior in Rome-Via Bosio.

By 2010, Sr. M. Lucia’s life’s journey was nearing its completion. Living in the Giacomo Alberione community in Albano, she devoted herself to animating and accompanying the elderly and infirm sisters. It was likely during this period that she wrote these poignant words: “One aspect I feel we lack was not having sufficiently embraced, in our youth, the apostolate of suffering and the spirituality of reparation—not because Fr. Alberione failed to instill them in us, but perhaps because, absorbed by the problems and urgencies of the moment, we did not think enough about the future, about the time of inactivity... And so, perhaps, we do not have enough spiritual antibodies to sustain our *apostolic vitality in every situation of life.*”

For about two years, she also required assistance and care as her strength gradually declined. This morning, she peacefully went to meet her Lord. Her breathing simply slowed... until she gently and serenely surrendered her life to Him. Sr. Lucia loved to recall an expression of M. Thecla that had particularly impressed her: “Death... you close your eyes here and open them there... and you see God. How beautiful!” We think it was just like that for her, too, and while we thank her for her living witness and the charismatic wealth she passed on to us, we think of her already in God's embrace, enjoying Him forever.

Affectionately,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, October 15, 2025