



Dear Sisters,

On November 17, 2021, at the Divine Master Community in Fresno (United States), at 5:20 PM, the Lord called to eternity our sister

SR. M. ROSARIA - AUREA GALLARDO

born on March 11, 1932 in San Fernando, Pampanga - Philippines.

At the age of 27, Aurea entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Pasay City (Philippines) on January 29, 1959. At the beginning of 1961, she was sent to Rome for the novitiate. She made her religious profession on March 25, 1962 in Rome and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1967, also in Rome.

She returned to the Philippines where, given her experience and maturity, she was soon assigned roles of responsibility in the Congregation: Regional Councilor, Local Superior at various times, formator of the aspirants and postulants, and then as Regional Treasurer.

Sr. M. Tiziana dal Masetto said of her: *«When I arrived in the Philippines in 1969, Sr. M. Rosaria was the formator of the aspirants and she introduced me to the new culture, language, customs of her people. We worked side by side for 12 years in the formation and in the foundation of new communities at Cebu Island and Alberione Oasis, by purchasing the land, collecting funds and their construction».*

Due to the marriage of one of her brothers, Sr. M. Rosaria was related to Cardinal Rufino Jiao Santos, Archbishop of Manila, and this facilitated the contacts with important persons in the society and the Church in the Philippines, through which there was easier access to the offices and to obtaining various types of permissions.

After a short period in Rome in 1980, she returned to Antipolo for a three-year term as Regional Treasurer. On November 15, 1990, she departed for Los Angeles: from that time on the United States would be her second missionary homeland.

By nature, she was very wise in economic management, creative, enterprising in our mission. United to these abilities was a profound spirituality, nourished by a life of prayer: this produced around her esteem and appreciation, especially among the lay people who turned to her with trust and confidence.

She regularly promoted the *Lectio Divina* with the laity. She began and animated the Holy Family Institute in San Jose, California, for as long as her health permit-

ted. During the strong liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent, she promoted initiatives of prayer for a large group of lay people with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharistic Celebration.

From 1994 to 2009 she was in the Divine Master Community in San Jose, California, also as Local Superior. In our chapel and in other places in the Diocese she developed the Eucharistic Adoration, almost perpetual, with the participation of the lay people, and also spending long hours in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament herself.

She had a youthful passion for vocations, inspiring and collaborating with the Diocesan Director for Vocations in San Jose; she promoted the 40 hours of Adoration for vocations. She encouraged the seminarians in their journey toward the priesthood, also organizing financial support for their formation, offering good advice. Some of them, after receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders, continued to find in her a spiritual guide, counting on her ministry of intercession.

She worked tirelessly also for the vocations to the Sister Disciples. The sisters shared how even recently, when she was suffering and unable to move about, she asked to have a cellphone so that "she could still reach out to the young women and animate them in their vocational search". Her vocational zeal was evident until her last breath. She was able to befriend many Vietnamese and Philippino Catholics, and our sister, Sr. M Cecilia Nguyen, and Rio Bella Cruz, currently in formation, are precious fruits of her zeal and her offering.

Sr. M. Rosaria spent these last years in the Divine Master Community in Fresno where her life became a living prayer. With the progressive decline of her health, she asked to be transferred to the *Nazareth House Care Home*, a unit that provides care for the sick. The Sisters and the members of the Holy Family Institute would go to visit her daily and maintain the communion of life with her, as Pauline Family. When it became clear that she was approaching the end of her earthly pilgrimage, about two weeks ago, Sr. M. Rosaria was brought back to the Fresno community. There, surrounded by the prayers of the Fresno community and comforted by the presence of a sister, Ched Nacorda and her niece, Tessa, she was accompanied day after day. Sr. M. Rosaria received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick from the community chaplain, Father Chika, on November 11 and was comforted also by the blessing presence of her "spiritual son" Fr. Eric Picson (from the San Jose Diocese) on November 15.

Sustained by much prayer, as she had lived every day, she surrendered herself serenely into the merciful and welcoming arms of God, our good and merciful Father.

To her we entrust the journey of the Delegation of Ireland/United States and the new generations: that they may be animated by a courageous missionary spirit and by an attitude of wisdom to recognize and adore God in every event of life, to bless and praise his Name.

Sr. M. Michaela Monetti