



Dear Sisters,

Today, November 20, 2021, at 8:05 AM, in the community of Beato Timoteo (Rome) the Virgin Mary conducted to the banquet of eternal life our sister

SR. M. ROSA ANNATERESA PACCHIAROTTI
born on October 15, 1942, in Grotte di Castro (VT).

In the same month, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, she received the gift of Baptism on October 29, in the Parish of St. Peter the Apostle and St. John the Baptist. Annateresa was the youngest of five children: one brother and four sisters. This is how she narrated the story of her vocation: *«From the most tender years I experienced within myself an inclination that led me to feel that I was called to the religious life totally dedicated to God, for his glory and peace among humanity. I was raised in a practicing Christian family in which we were taught to love God and hate sin. I am the last of five children, of whom the first, at only ten years of age, flew to Paradise to become the guardian angel of my family... As the youngest, I was also somewhat the hope of support for my parents in their advanced age... In Catholic Action (in which I served from a very young age and of which I still keep the membership card) I was able to discover with more awareness and increased love the greatness of the apostolate and the possibility of doing good for many souls. With adolescence, many questions arose in my mind: Am I truly called? And the response to this question was almost always affirmative for the sentiment that it nourished my desire to do something good, in the certainty that the grace of God would lead and follow me in everything. Then there was the question: Where do I go? To which institute?». Sr. M. Rosa expressed the wisdom of her search in which she looked at the religious institutes present in her local area as well as the cloistered institutes until «I had the opportunity to meet the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. Immediately, I became enamored of the Eucharistic Apostolate, then I came to know about the other apostolates: priestly and liturgical; these also satisfied my inclination and my desires». It was also difficult to overcome the resistance of her parents, with their expectations regarding her. She was able to realize her dream at the beautiful age of 21: thus, on January 13, 1964, she entered the Congregation in Rome. In his introduction, the pastor affirmed: «I firmly hope that the religious vocation manifested by many signs may arrive, with the grace of God, to complete maturation».*

Having completed postulancy and novitiate, on March 25, 1966, she made her religious profession in Rome and the perpetual profession on May 21, 1972 in her parish church in Grotte di Castro (VT). In her written request for perpetual profession she manifested the awareness of her limitations and, at the same time affirmed: «*I want to be docile to this grace and allow myself to be guided by it to live my offering in constant joy*». The reports of the formators emphasize her deep and practical love for the Congregation: her good will and good spirit. She is generous and responsible; of good character even if at times she is less tolerant with the sisters, but she recognizes this and profits from the observations.

Her parents, reconciled with their daughter, expressed their thanks to Mother General: «*First of all we must thank the Lord who gave you this inspiration, Mother, to allow her to come to our Parish. Then we thank you personally, that God may bless you!*». And she expressed: «*Now, thanks be to God, I am a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master, happy, rather more than happy with this great grace, which I now ask of the Lord insistently to be always a faithful disciple of the Divine Master because the expression of Saint Paul is always true: All run, but it is only the one who arrives at the finish line who will receive the prize. I wish and invoke this for all the Sister Disciples and consecrated souls. It is **not enough to respond, it is necessary to correspond***».

Sr. M. Rosa carried out her mission in various communities in Italy. The ministries she fulfilled have the common denominator of common service in the daily exercise of charity: she was the cook, prepared the refectory, the wardrobe in various communities of the Society of St. Paul, as well as our own. She returned several times to some of these places: Rome, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), Albano Laziale, Ariccia (RM), Bari. Since 2011 she was in the *Regina Apostolorum* community in Rome, reordering the refectory and preparing the fruit. These were services done with simplicity, attention to the common good, conserving the resources by avoiding waste, and good humor. Her life is characterized by the offering of herself, by solicitude, by charity, by service. She was a lively cook with the gift of bringing joy to others with her jokes. For three years she was also in the community of the Souvenirs at St. Peter's/Vatican (1981-1984).

Even in these last years, tested by sickness, she did not limit the time given for the service asked of her, always with the commitment of appreciating everything, even when it was donated. To her we can aptly apply the evangelical saying of Jesus Master: «*I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink*» (Mt 25:35).

Some traits of her correspondence, primarily with Mother M. Lucia Ricci, demonstrate the depth of her feelings: «*I am coming to express to you all my appreciation and gratitude and to manifest my happiness and my joy at belonging to Christ and to the Congregation*» (August 12, 1973). As she was assisting her infirm father: «*Spiritually I am trying to do everything to be more united to God, especially through the*

practice of charity» (May 25, 1980). «Remember me always to the Lord that I may be a disciple according to God's plan, and that I may always praise and thank the Lord with my life» (Bari, Easter 1981). On a list of the names of all the sisters in her community, placed within her Rule of Life, she wrote: «Lord, I love you in all the sisters you have placed beside me, there is no order of first or last». And she entrusted herself to the Virgin Mary in this way: «O Mary, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, to you I entrust my life, make it pure and holy as Yours, to merit to live of Your and my Jesus and always to act and work in him».

Sr. M. Rosa's health forced her to walk a difficult journey, entirely uphill: beginning with diabetes and its complications; together with various neoplasms (bilateral breast cancer, which began in 2001 and returned in 2016, to which was added colon cancer) which required diverse and frequent cancer checks, continual examinations and specific therapies. In the end there was a cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) in August of 2021, which tested her courage, her interior strength drawn from prayer, and that required her to be supported in facing a long agony. Recently, due to the complexity of the clinical picture, she was transferred to the Beato Timoteo community where the community alternated without interruption to accompany her with prayer and vigilance in her room.

She spent these last days of her infirmity in total surrender, entrusting herself to the Lord, in peace and serenity. As long as she remained conscious, she always united herself with the prayers of the sisters beside her, grateful also for the caring presence of Emmanuela, her niece, with her husband.

On the Saturday vigil, the Virgin Mary accompanied her to the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb, who was sacrificed and glorious, as the community was celebrating the Eucharist. At the moment of the Consecration, like a living host, she was united to the sacrifice of Christ!

Sr. M. Rosa, you are now exalting Christ the King, as you learned at a very early age in Catholic Action! Pray for our young women in formation and intercede for new vocations for the Pauline Family and for the Church, for your grandnephew Fr. Fabrizio, a Dominican priest!

S. H. Paolo Mancini