



Dear Sisters,

On October 30, 2022, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the Divine Master, from the community of Sanfrè (CN), at 2:30 PM, the Lord manifested his presence and brought our sister to eternal light

SR. M. LAURENTINA – TERESA BERTERO
born on February 6, 1928, in Santo Stefano Roero (CN).

Two days after her birth, she was brought to the baptismal font in the parish church of Santo Stefano Roero. She is the niece of the Pauline priest, Fr. Lorenzo Bertero, and of the Sister Disciple, Sr. M. Dionisia Bertero, who died in 1978.

Teresa, in the freshness of her – almost – twenty years of age, entered the Congregation in Alba Casa Madre on July 16, 1947, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

She completed her formative *curriculum* in Alba, Casa Madre. The evaluations made of her emphasize: «*She gives me the impression of a good daughter, with a true vocation, capable of making progress, and that she loves the Institute. She is of good will, serious, upright intention. Animated by a lively desire to reach perfection*». Following the regular course of novitiate, she made her religious profession in Alba (CN) on March 25, 1950. The Church was celebrating the Jubilee of the Holy Year and the invitation of Pope Pius XII was alive «*tend toward virtue and holiness, according to the Word of the Lord: Sanctify yourselves and you will be holy, because I am the Lord your God*».

She made her perpetual profession, always in Alba, on March 25, 1955. In her request for admission she stated: «*I am convinced that my efforts alone are not enough to fulfill all of the demands of the religious state and the observance of the Holy Vows; but with good will, prayer and the help of the Divine Master and of Mary Queen of the Apostles, who provide many graces for me, and of the good Mothers who guide me with such goodness and urge me toward good through their example, I desire to succeed **in pleasing my spouse, Jesus, completely.** In Him, poor Sr. M. Laurentina*» (Albano Laziale, January 9, 1955).

Her apostolic mission is characterized by ordinariness, if it were not extraordinary for her way of being and the interior attitude with which she fulfilled every apostolate. Following profession, she was in the sewing workroom in Alba, then the refectory, first at Vicenza SP then at Albano SP. Following perpetual profession, she went as a missionary to Australia, and remained there for five years (1956-1960), in *Homebush* SP, which is now *Strath-*

field, dedicated to various services. Upon her return to Italy, she went to the workroom at San Paolo in Rome (1960-1969), then to Alba San Paolo as sacristan and local councilor (1969-1974) and then, as portress at the *Regina Apostolorum* house in Rome (1974-1976). She then went to the Society of St. Paul in Vicenza, where she was also local councilor (1976-1986). In Trento (1987) she served as sacristan in the small Church of the Annunciation, entrusted to the Congregation with the ministry of continual Eucharistic adoration. In 1992 she returned to Rome RA dedicated to the delicate service of hospitality. She reserved particular attention for the poor who came to the door of the community. She was unable to say no to them, even outside the scheduled hours, and she would often stay to listen to their stories. In 2006 she was transferred to the Beato Timoteo community (Rome), and then to Sanfrè in 2012. With an attentive eye and diligent practical sense, she dedicated herself everywhere by offering simple but precious services for the community, for as long as the problems related to her spinal column allowed.

The life of this sister is distinguished by her extraordinary dedication and love in every service she was able to offer. Her welcoming style flowed from the daily school of the Divine Master in the prayer of adoration, according to the evangelical spirit of the house of Bethany.

For Sr. M. Laurentina, the type of service made no difference: the importance lay in the quality of the gift, that deep awareness of fulfilling the will of God through the total offering of oneself, of being on a journey of sanctification. Christ the Master gathered the interior dimensions of his disciple, who continually sought him and, precisely on his feastday, he desired to bring her into the Banquet of the eternal wedding feast.

Continue, Sister, from Heaven, to intercede for all of us, for each member of the Pauline Family, the awareness of being called to realize: "*It is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me*" in order to offer the men and women of our time a living witness of the Gospel!

Sr. M. Paola Mancini