



Dear Sisters,

On March 27, 2023, at 2.30 pm, in the Blessed Timothy Community of Rome, our sister concluded her earthly pilgrimage:

**SR. M. COSTANTINA - FERNANDA NATALIA CARON
born on 5 May 1929 in San Pietro Viminario (PD).**

Fernanda became a daughter of God with the sacrament of Baptism just a few days after her birth, on May 9, 1929, led by her father Silvio and her mother Maria Baldon to the baptismal font.

The family, made up of 5 children in addition to their parents, simple, exemplary, of deeply Christian principles, favoured Fernanda's growth in faith and in love for the Church. Her Brother Disciple in the Society of St. Paul, Brother Tarcisio Bernardino Caron, two years older than her, preceded in the entrance into the House and into the eternal life. Fernanda, a teenager, entered the community of the Sister Disciples at the Society of Saint Paul in Sacile (Pordenone) on 8 September 1941. « *My brother, Brother Bernardino, who had been in Saint Paul for about a year, opened the way for me to follow Jesus* » (06.05.2012). After a few months she would continue her formation first in Alba and then in Rome. « *In Rome I had the privilege of being close to Mother Scholastica during the time of trial (at Villa San Giuseppe). For me I had examples of humility, serenity, and peace that she spread with her example. She also had many acts of thoughtfulness towards me* » (06.05.2012). She enters the novitiate in Alba (CN) on the day of the diocesan approval of the Congregation, April 3, 1947. She made her First Profession on April 4, 1948, *Domenica in Albis*, and her Final Vows on April 4, 1953, again in Alba. Sr. M. Costantina in a few days would have remembered 75 years of religious profession.

After her profession, she spent some time as assistant cook at the Society of St. Paul in Rome. In 1955 a missionary call reached her and she was asked to lend her contribution in Santiago del Chile, as responsible of the incipient foundation: "*I was not worthy of being a missionary, I felt poor, unable to carry out the mission entrusted to me, but I trusted in obedience and in the grace of God. That is what we have found: a true mission and great poverty. I tasted the real mission. I was 25 years old: the sacrifice didn't cost me* " (06.05.2012). For health reasons she had to come back to Italy after six years. Such experience left in her heart a great love and interest for the reality of the Chilean Sister Disciples.

Upon returning to Italy in 1961 she went to Alba, to the Mother House as the assistant

cook, then in Alba St. Paul as the sacristan, then at Rome at the Estate of St Paul. For two years then to Sanfrè for health problems. From 1971 she would take care of the laundry and the clothes rooms at the General House of the Society of St. Paul. In 1974 she would follow a course and receive a diploma in generic nursing with successive updating. In 1975 she was in charge of the Infirmary in Milan at the Society of St. Paul and then, after an interval as cook in Vicenza, from 1979 she was at the Infirmary in the Community of St. Paul in Turin and from 1981 would help as infirmary assistant in Rome St. Paul. From 1983 she would be in Florence St. Paul for various tasks, then as a nurse in Cinisello Balsamo St. Paul. In 1986 she was in Albano due to health problems. From 2001 she was in the sewing laboratory in Florence DM and since 2006 she has been at the Blessed Timothy Community, dedicated to the embroidery of the *gigliuccio* as long as her physical conditions would allow her to continue.

Sr. M. Costantina was very fond of praying to her Guardian Angel, she invoked him especially frequently in these past days of her life, as well as, in this difficult agony, urging the heavenly Bridegroom to come and take her. The sisters accompanied her in prayer and with loving assistance. She welcomed in a conscious way every intention which was entrusted to her: for vocations, the General Chapter, the initiative for priests in need. She had always shown a great love for the Pauline priesthood and a keen interest in their apostolate, especially through her brother Bernardino who allowed her share in his pastoral and vocational activity.

She was distinguished also for her great love and esteem for Mother Scholastica to whom she writes: *«As we approach the annual feast of St. Scholastica it is natural to think of she who bears her name and who will always be for us the Sister Disciple of the first hour. We wish her well, in good health, and always active, full of fervour and love for God»* (02.05.1967). From her writings we gather some pearls from which emerge the things that occupied her heart most intensely: " *Today is the anniversary of the departure for Chile! Many memories! May the Lord bless this nation and give it many vocations»* (to M. Lucia Ricci, Alba, 03.01.1997). *«I carry in my heart and pray for the Priests and religious, so that they may be witnesses of Christ in the world. For the Pauline Family! We are the root»* (to Sr. Regina Cesarato, Easter 2009). *“The Lord has used a lot of mercy with me to call me to be part of this beloved Congregation. I am happy with times past. The Lord has established much love and predilection after many storms for our Congregation. Glory to Jesus if we fully live our vocation as Sister Disciples»* (08.12.2011). *«Greetings for the Holy Easter. The resurrection of Christ gives us reason to resurrect to new life. The next Chapter gives us material for a work of reflection to renew ourselves in spiritual progress of love of God and mutual charity. The ideal of holiness and mutual prayer keeps us always united, to reach holiness to which we are called”* (Holy Easter 2017).

Sr. M. Costantina suffered from kidney problems from her youth, but advanced age brought with it various complications. It was a painful but conscious passage to eternity and offered with many intentions. Now we invoke her eternal peace. We entrust to her the celebration of this centenary year in the world to bring about a renewal of life in our Congregation, especially for the Delegation of Chile!

Sr. M. Paolo Maurini