



Dear Sisters,

On July 29, 2024, Memorial of the Family of Bethany: Martha, Mary and Lazarus, at 2:30 PM, Jesus Master visited our community of Sanfré (Italy) and definitively called to himself his disciple and our sister

SR. M. PAOLA – LUIGIA AMICO
born on November 25, 1943, in Alessano (LE) - Italy

Baptized on December 19, 1943, fourth of six children, she was raised in a Christian environment with solid human values. From her family setting, and especially from her mother, she learned the importance of the Christian life animated by a solid faith and simple, confident prayer. Over the years, she often recalled an enlightening phrase that was repeated in various circumstances by her mother, a humble, simple, strong and courageous woman: “They are not born saints, but they die saints”. This affirmation expresses the conviction that, in docile collaboration with the grace of God, life is progressively transformed and attains the end for which we are created; to love and serve God and enjoy him forever in Paradise. This pertains, certainly, to that ordinary holiness that is learned in the gymnasium of daily life, in the little things and the choices that each day find their true meaning in the light of the Gospel of Jesus. Also in the parish setting, she found support for growth in the faith, especially in Catholic Action, in which she was an active participant, first as a “beniamina”, then as an “aspirante and giovanissima”.

She came to know the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master through the Rizzo Family, which gave some vocations to the Pauline Family. On August 26, 1964, she entered the Congregation in Alba - Casa Madre: she was enthusiastic about the lifestyle of the community, the Eucharistic adoration, the devotion to the Divine Master, Way, Truth and Life, to St. Paul the Apostle. She found herself confirmed in the Marian devotion acquired in her family and she turned to Mary, Mother, Teacher and Queen of the Apostles with filial affection. She was content in the priestly service and matured in her esteem and comprehension of the Pauline religious and priests. She presented herself as a promising young woman: joyful, sunny, generous and convinced of the beautiful religious vocation.

On March 25, 1967, at the conclusion of the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession in Rome and, six years later, on March 25, 1973, she made her perpetual profession, also in Rome.



In the meantime she completed her studies at the Istituto Magistrale in Rimini. Directed and encouraged by the superiors, on June 3, 1971, she obtained the diploma in professional nursing at the Policlinico “A. Gemelli” della Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia della Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (RM).

The following year, on October 10, 1972, she completed the specialization in Surgical Assistance at the Istituti Ospedalieri e di ricovero in Rimini.

From that time on, her days, and often her nights as well, were dedicated to the care of persons who were the most fragile in physical health, whether in our communities or in the departments of the Hospital *Regina Apostolorum* at Albano Laziale (1978 – 1986). In Sanfré, in Rome at Via Portuense where a small “Casa di Cura” {Clinic} was prepared for religious and priests at the beginning of the 1970’s at the desire of the Founder, in Albano Laziale, in Cinisello Balsamo: wherever there was an infirmary, Sr. M. Paola could be found, generous and competent in her service. She spent a brief period in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1993) maturing in the missionary experience, beyond the national borders and among other cultures: this, according to the Pauline and universal style, refined her jovial and open character in generosity.


Sociable and sensitive of soul, during special occasions or feastdays, she would release her poetic vein and recite, in simple rhyme, celebratory verses that enlivened the event and described the joy and community sentiments of gratitude, of esteem for the fraternal and religious life.

In these last years, after a long period spent in Rome (2004 – 2024) in various communities: Provincial House, Rome SP, Albano Laziale, Rome RA she continued to serve in the spirit of the Family of Bethany, of the faithful and hardworking Martha and of her sister Mary who listened and assimilated the Word of the Master Jesus. For some months she had returned to Sanfré, a community that she greatly loved and in which she had served a great deal, in the serene conviction that there she would be able to decisively orient her life for the definitive encounter with the Beloved.

She concluded her earthly pilgrimage because of cerebral ischemia on the day in which the Church celebrates the memorial of the Family of Bethany, the house characterized by friendly hospitality toward Jesus and his disciples.

We trust that the Lord of life, receiving her into his Kingdom, would have spoken the words consoling to every disciple of the Kingdom: «Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (...) Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me» (cfr. Mt 25: 31-46).

Rome, July 30, 2024


Sr. M. Micaela Monetti