



Dear Sisters,

On Saturday, August 17, 2024, from the Divine Master Community of Albano Laziale (Italy), at 5:40 PM, the Lord of Life definitively called to himself his disciple and our sister

SR. M. SILVANA – VENERA RAPISARDA
born on November 11, 1937, in Acireale (Catania-Italy).

One week after her birth, the little girl and her twin brother were brought to the Baptismal Font to receive the great gift of faith in Christ Jesus and divine adoption. She received the name of Venera, but everyone affectionately called her Venerina.

Together with three other sisters, they grew up in a family that was united and devoutly Christian, with a love for the Madonna, thanks especially to the example of the parents. She soon learned the trade as a seamstress, thus offering her contribution to the support of the family and developing the artistic creativity in a style which, at that time, was suitable for the young women who faced life and the future.

Through some vocational magazines, she came to know the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, and thanks to the spiritual accompaniment of her pastor, Father Giovanni Colombo, she matured in the decision to respond to the call of God to the religious life. Upon receiving the news, her father was pleased and appreciated her choice; her mother, instead, showed some resistance, not so much for the choice in itself, but because she feared it was a “straw fire” that would extinguish after the initial enthusiasm and then rapidly grow cold. Later in life, in fact, her mother confided to her that from the womb her mother had consecrated her to the Madonna to whom she was especially devoted.

On July 16, 1963, Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, she entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Alba – Casa Madre, leaving her family and the beautiful Sicilian countryside, drawn by the greater gift of the vocation to love with undivided heart and to serve Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life, living in the Eucharist, in the priesthood and in the Church.

Following the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1966, and after six years of temporary vows, on May 14, 1972, she made her perpetual profession in Acireale, in her home parish of “S. Maria degli Ammalati”.

From the first steps in consecrated life, she presented herself as being very industrious, with a lively sense of responsibility and love for her vocation and religious family. She dedicated



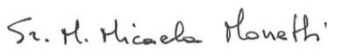
herself generously in the tailoring workshops of the Liturgical Apostolate and, over time, also obtained a commercial license to be placed at the service of lay persons and priests who came to the Liturgical Apostolate Centers seeking qualified subsidies to cultivate and maintain the beauty of the liturgical prayer.

Small in stature, she was gifted with practical intelligence; she distinguished herself by her gentle and discrete manner, at times slow, but always balanced and sociable. A lover of the prayer life, she was able to draw from the daily Eucharistic Adoration and the liturgical life, the apostolic energy to be at the service of the bishops, priests and seminarians who turned to the ecclesiastical tailoring done by the Sister Disciples. She lived in various communities in Italy: among the workshops, the Liturgical Apostolate Centers and also as local superior of communities: at Gravina in Catania (1979 – 1982), Trento (1986 – 1987), various times in Florence (1993 – 1997 and 2003 – 2009), Genoa (2000 – 2003). In 2016 she was transferred to Albano Laziale, where she offered various useful services to the community for as long as her health permitted.

In serenity and surrounded by the care of the community and the medical personnel, her earthly life ended on a Saturday in August, the First Vespers of the Sunday, Day of the Lord and weekly Easter.

We are confident that the Virgin Mother of God has received her to present her to the throne of the Most High as a disciple who, in fidelity and joy, lived her religious vocation, of which she was very proud. We trust that she is now an intercessory presence for all of us who, as pilgrims of hope, journey toward the final goal: the merciful embrace of our Good Father.

Rome, August 18, 2024


Sr. M. Micaela Monetti