



Dear Sisters,

On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 11:35 PM, Jesus Master visited the DM Community in Albano Laziale (Italy), definitively calling to himself his disciple and our sister

SR. M. PIERGIULIANA – VITTORIA FARINA

born on October 7, 1941, in S. Martino dei Mulini RN (Italy)

Baptized on October 11, together with the gift of faith of the Church, she received the name Vittoria. She was raised in a farming family in San Martino dei Mulini, a small zone of the town of Santarcangelo di Romagna, in the province of Rimini. She met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master and, perceiving a vocation to the religious life, she left her family before reaching the age of twenty and entered the Congregation at Alba (CN) on January 25, 1961, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Having completed the years of initial formation, on March 25, 1963, she made her religious profession in Rome and, on March 25, 1968, she made her perpetual profession, also in Rome.

They were the years of the Second Vatican Council, and the young professed sisters enthusiastically shared in the fervorous ecclesial renewal, praying and updating themselves. They were also the years in which Sr. M. Piergiuliana was formed in the universal spirit of catholicity and they solidified the sense of belonging, fortifying in her heart the authentic vocation and mission at the service of the Eucharist, the Priesthood and the Liturgy.

Sr. M. Piergiuliana distinguished herself for her liturgical and Eucharistic piety which was lived and felt, for her constant and discrete generosity in the mission, marked by silence and meekness. She sustained, through prayer and the offering of her life, all the priests, inviting them to offer a witness of holiness and apostolate. She was also very proud when a priestly vocation matured within her own family.

Sent to study, in 1967 she obtained a Master's degree. She then frequented the Theological Institute "Regina Mundi" connected with the Gregorian Pontifical University to obtain a Masters degree in Religious Studies, with optimal results (1972). She also attended the Vatican School of diplomatic and archival paleography and obtained specialized formation at the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. This was to enhance her service at the Dicastery for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, from 1975 to 1990.

Upon leaving this service, she was assigned to the Liturgical Office of the Vicariate of Rome (1990 – 1995) and then to the Center for Liturgical Action, an association of promoters of the liturgy and pastoral workers desired by the Italian Episcopal Conference, at the service of the Churches in Italy.



The liturgical life is, in fact and by charism, the heart that beats in the mission lived by Sr. M. Piergiuliana, to enable the Christian communities to live what they celebrate and to participate in the liturgy with understanding and awareness «per ritus et preces».

This broad and intense experience of ecclesial service, even in the interpersonal relationships, continued to bear fruit during the years in which she assumed the responsibility for the subscriptions to the Magazine of formation and liturgical information “La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa”. Precise, discreet and cordial, she established a cordial relationship with the persons and the communities that were in contact with her, which bears witness to how the liturgical prayer leaves its mark in daily life: «vigilant in prayer, active in charity and exultant in praise».

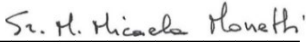
At various times she was the superior in some communities: Florence (1973 – 1975), Rome SMM (2012 – 2015), Bari (2018 – 2021). They testify of her: «*She was a small woman, reserved, precise, courteous and affable, capable of making the other person feel at ease and to open the doors of the heart as well as the doors of her own house to those who turned to her for any reason. I always remember with pleasure those Sunday afternoons in which I went to the community at via Quintino Sella in Bari for the adoration and Vespers and I saw her appear with her habitual smile at the landing, ready to do the honors for the house. Without fail she would ask: “Would you like some coffee, or something else to drink?”. At the end of the prayer we would always spend some time together in which, with great enthusiasm, she would tell me about her service during the National Eucharistic Congress celebrated in the Pugliese capital in 2005, about the preparations for the National Liturgical Week at San Giovanni Rotondo and other experiences she had. In perfect harmony with her charism as a Sister Disciple, she never failed to ask me to pray for her nephew, a priest of the Diocese of Rimini*».

And again: «*I would like to emphasize three distinctive traits about Sr. M. Piergiuliana which, personally, enriched my faith. First of all, her silence: she was not noisy, but profoundly concentrated in her thoughts on personal growth and her apostolate, without showing off. Second, her extraordinary ability to dialogue and work in a team, providing the others with the lightness typical of one who knows what is essential. However, I was most touched by her openness to the persons and newness of life. Not everyone can lead a group of 25 young people in Christian initiation, facing the challenges associated with the age and the technical difficulties imposed by COVID-19. And yet she did it exceptionally well!*».

Tried in her physical health by widespread metastatic [cancer], she progressively refined, like gold in the crucible, her consecration as a Sister Disciple, intensifying the conscious offering of her life, in fraternity, in daily prayer and confident trust in the God of mercy.

Dear Sister M. Piergiuliana, in the heart of the night, the Divine Spouse came to meet you and found you ready with your lamp burning with charity, with the oil of good works, gathered day after day, in small vases of simplicity and serenity. The definitive call of the Divine Master reached you as the universal Church continues its synodal journey with humility and spiritual intellect. You would have intensely enjoyed it with prayerful participation. Thank you for the authentic witness as a consecrated person and a woman of great humanity. Now, purified in the crucible of suffering, you take part in the eternal Eucharist where your gratitude is perfected and your life becomes luminous forever.

Rome, October 3, 2024


Sr. M. Micaela Monetti