



Dear Sisters,

On Monday, October 14, 2024, in the community of Sanfrè (Italy), at 7:40 AM, Jesus Master definitively called to himself our sister

**SR. M. LEONELLA – MARIA BUFFO**  
**born on May 26, 1932, in San Zenone di Minerbe – Verona (Italy)**

One week after her birth, on June 1, 1932, she was brought to the baptismal font, received the name of Maria and entered into the great family of the sons and daughters of God, receiving the gift of the faith of the Church.

On April 10, 1948, she entered the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in the Pauline community of Sacile (PN) where the sisters offer priestly service.

Following the regular novitiate, on March 25, 1951, in Alba – Casa Madre – she made her religious profession and asked to receive the new name of Leonella in memory of her brother, Leonello, who died in war. This conscious choice bears witness to the familial bonds that she fostered also in the formation of her personality in peace and serene sharing. After five years, on March 25, 1956, she made her perpetual profession, also in Alba (CN).

From the first years of consecrated life, which she spent in Alba (1951 – 1956), she distinguished herself by her meek and generous character. Animated by industriousness, punctuality and attention to daily life, she was dedicated in the bookbinding and the diffusion of the liturgical magazine “La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa”.

With the perpetual profession, the international horizons of the mission were opened to her: on June 1, 1956, she boarded the ship “Marco Polo” in Genoa to arrive at a new destination: Santiago, Chile. She remained there until 1963, dedicated to service in the Liturgical Apostolate Center. She was esteemed and appreciated by the local clergy and the faithful who frequented the Center and they were sorry to see her leave.

Upon her return to Italy for one year (1963 – 1964) she stayed at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Milan. She then departed for Venezuela where she was dedicated primarily to the priestly service at the community of the Society of St. Paul in Caracas (1964 – 1968).

Returning to Italy, from 1968 to 1978, she was assigned to various services in various cities: Vicenza, Rome, Palermo, at times at the Liturgical Apostolate Centers, at times with the Pauline communities of the Society of St. Paul where, in simplicity and practicality, she organized her time between fidelity to liturgical prayer and Eucharistic adoration and precision and punctuality in the apostolate, in accordance with the spirit of the Sister Disciples.

Over the next twenty years (1982 – 2012) she fulfilled the role of local superior in various communities: Alba SP – community of Famiglia Cristiana, Alba Casa Madre SP, Torino DM, Catania DM, Rome SP – General House, Rome SP – Provincial House, Bari DM and finally



in the S. Pietro community in the Vatican. In the following years she continued to offer her contribution of joyful and prayerful service in the communities of the Society of St. Paul in Milan. From 2018, she was transferred to Sanfré, where she made herself useful and collaborated according to her physical ability, but always faithful to the prayer of intercession and the adoration, renewing day by day her intimacy with God.

A few weeks ago, the community participated in the annual Spiritual Exercises and, as usual, at the conclusion of this time of grace, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was administered to all those who desired to receive it. Sr. M. Leonella participated with complete awareness.

The persons who spent the most time with her testify to her characteristic traits that we gather as an inheritance: *«To me, she was a great example of a Sister Disciple, animated by a strong and coherent zeal for the apostolate that she carried out and for her closeness to the Pauline priests. I was in formation during those years, and she was always very sensitive, with that affect that can be described as maternal or, given the age difference, the closeness that would be typical of a grandmother who is very good to her grandchild. Her face transmitted serenity, joy and acceptance. She was gifted with a fine sense of humor, which made her vivacious, but at the same time gentle and attentive to the needs of everyone. I think that Sr. M. Leonella is an excellent example of the good apostolic service of prayer and of service required of every Sister Disciple».*

The sisters remember her amiability and generosity, without an anxiety-generating protagonism; a style of life that facilitates daily fraternal collaboration, fostering mutual help without difficulties to obtain the objective together peacefully. Truly it is a beautiful witness to how the spirit of the sisters of Bethany – Martha and Mary – may be incarnated in simplicity and realism, since they are completely dedicated to Jesus Master, as his disciples.

In gathering your life witness, we entrust you, dear Sister, as you enjoy the merciful embrace of God the Father, with our religious Family, the Pauline Family to which you belonged. Intercede for us that we may be able to consciously live this ecclesial season that is so rich and animated by the spirit of the Synod of Bishops on *synodality*, by the preparation for the Ordinary Jubilee, as *pilgrims of hope on the way of peace*.

Rome, October 15, 2024

*Sr. M. Micaela Monetti*  
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