



Dear Sisters,

At the beginning of this New Year 2017, on January 2, at 10:30 PM, in the community of Sanfrè, the Divine Master called to himself our sister,

**SR. M. AVE - TERESINA BRUNO,
born in Narzole (CN) - (Italy) on April 17, 1928.**

On October 1, 1941, barely an adolescent, she entered at Casa Madre (the Mother House) in Alba, and immediately manifested herself to be a diligent and sensible young woman, a promising candidate for consecrated life, and aware of the duties this entailed. Her sister, Caterina, a year younger, would follow her into the Congregation a few years later, receiving the name of Sr. M. Dorotea. Her brother, Father Tommaso, a missionary of the Society of St. Paul in Columbia, completes the Pauline donation of this exemplary family, nourished by the example of the holy life of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, their fellow countryman.

On March 24, 1946, she entered the novitiate: it is the time of the complex ecclesial approval of the Institute, which concluded on April 3, 1947 – Holy Thursday, with the diocesan approval. This is how this period is described in the Reports for the Process of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo: *“One of the most painful moments occurred when the Congregation for Religious, with the decree of August 24, 1946, disposed the interruption of the novitiate of the Sister Disciples in Alba. The twenty novices arrived in the Eternal City, in tears, on November 9, 1946, to begin the novitiate among the Daughters of St. Paul”*. When Sr. M. Ave recalled this period, despite the length of time that had passed, she could not hide the emotion and repeated forcefully that none of them had any doubt about their specific vocational and ecclesial identity. The formative itinerary of the novitiate concluded on May 24, 1947, with the religious profession made in Alba. She made her perpetual profession on June 21, 1952, also in Alba.

She began her journey of actively offering herself in the apostolate and in the communities: until 1959 she was in Cinisello (DM) in the workshop for sacred art, where she learned the art of retouching, thus refining her artistic sensitivity for decorum and for beauty with regard to the piety of the faithful; then, for about ten years, she offered her service at the Liturgical Apostolate Center, first in Turn, then in Camarate in Portugal, and then in Milan. From 1969 to 1971 she was in the community of Catania, near the Society of St. Paul, and then, as local superior, she coordinated, with diligence and feminine tact, the small community at the Bishop's Residence in Alba. She then returned to Catania as local superior for a three year term in the Divine Master community. In 1975 she was called by the Superior General of that time to offer her service at the Vatican switchboard, a community in which she also offered her contribution as local councilor for a period of time. She fulfilled this mission with precision and prudence, with her characteristic discretion, conscious of the fact that she was fulfilling a precious ecclesial service for the person of the Pope.

In 1991 she was transferred to the General House where, for as long as her physical strength permitted, she worked in the laundry and took care of the house linens. When her health became more fragile, she was sent to the community of Sanfrè, where her sister, Sr. M. Dorotea, also resided, thereby moving closer to the rest of her family. In her final weeks, an initial case of influenza was complicated by persistent bronco-pulmonary problems that led to her death.

She is especially remembered for the ministry of intercession that she carried out faithfully until her last days, intensifying her prayer with current and universal intentions. She was generous and attentive to the needs of the community. Writing to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superior General, she recounted the “little experience: three times a day I help in the infirmary to prepare the food for the sick; I offered myself since one [person] was missing...I do everything I can”.

Sr. M. Ave, now that you have concluded your earthly journey and enjoy the merciful embrace of the Father, remember us and continue to intercede for our 9th General Chapter, which is approaching. Live in the joy of God!

Sr. M. Nicola Bonetti

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