



Dear Sisters,

As the Gospel of the day on January 9, 2017, had us contemplate the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus with the call of the first disciples along the Sea of Galilee; at 10:30 PM, in the Divine Master community of Palermo, this word of life was fulfilled for our sister

SR. M. CORRADINA – MARGHERITA BONO
born in Avola (Syracuse) – Italy, on December 24, 1932.

The birth of little Margherita on Christmas Eve was received by the parents as a gift of Divine Providence. The Christian family into which she was born consisted of the father, a farmer, the mother, a housewife, and six children who are certainly strength for the future, but also a concern for their growth and education. Received into the Congregation on May 7, 1955, she entered the community of the Sister Disciples in Catania. Strong in health and prepared for sacrifice, she was ready to face the future in a manner that was practical rather than theoretical.

On March 24, 1957, she entered the novitiate in Rome and the following year, on March 25, 1958, she made her religious profession in Rome, at what was then the General House. On this occasion, the presider for the Eucharistic Celebration was Blessed James Alberione who, in his homily, traced out for the young novices the journey that awaited them: *“In this moment we have offered to the Lord the good and beautiful flowers. We offered them, they have been offered also by the family. May the Lord be praised. The profession is made up of three parts (...) “Leave everything”: the first part of the Profession. “And you have followed me”: the second part of the Profession. But what follows? In the present life there is “the hundredfold” of grace, of blessings; since Jesus Master will guard you as his chosen daughters. And most of all: “eternal life”, the eternal reward”* (APD 1958, 106. 108). Sr. M. Corradina continued her journey to the perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1963. It was once again the Founder who accompanied the young sisters gathered for a month of preparation for the perpetual profession (February 17 – March 25): *“And now you must think like this: once the perpetual profession is made, you enter into the eternal novitiate, and thus you go from profession to profession, since even the perpetual [profession] is temporary, because we will die, don’t we? Therefore the Profession is always temporary, until we enter Paradise. Then it will be eternal”* (APD 1963,24).

These simple and essential thoughts accompanied the religious life of Sr. M. Corradina, spent mainly in the sewing workrooms of the various communities: Albano Laziale, Alba, Rome, Genoa and, since 1988, in Palermo. She spent a short period of time in the following communities at the Society of Saint Paul: Turin, Milan, Catania Cibali, where she maintained the wardrobe and the laundry. To her industriousness was joined the faithful and intense prayer of daily adoration, filled with the Pauline and universal intentions, united with the fraternal service required by the sharing of daily life.

With the decline in her physical energy, she left the sewing workroom and continued in the apostolate of suffering that made her days fruitful. She lived the intercessions, remembering especially “all priests, that they might all be holy” – as she wrote – “think about all the families who suffer, how many sins are committed: I always ask myself: what do I do for them?” (August 11, 1996). From her few writings emerge a great love for her vocation: *“I have always been happy in my vocation as a Sister Disciple. Even in the trials of sickness, I saw the hand of God who, through suffering, draws me to him, and he gives me the strength to communicate him to the others. I am happy also now: I pass the days saying many Rosaries. Thanks be to God and to Jesus Master, I do not give in to sadness, but prayer is everything for me... Even if I am off-key, I sing and laugh as always”* (December 7, 2007). Although she was suffering with cardiac and respiratory problems, death came almost suddenly because of acute pulmonary edema, but we know that it did not find her unprepared for the definitive call to the meeting with the Divine Master.

Sr. M. Corradina, pray for us as we journey toward the 9th General Chapter that the new wine of the Spirit of God may renew the life of all and of each person.

Sr. M. Michaela Monetti