



Dear Sisters,

Today, October 19, 2014, 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, the day of the beatification of Pope Paul VI, at 2:00PM (local time), in the hospital of *Karunashraya* in Bangalore (India), our sister,

Sr. M. Margaret Pushpa Savarinathan
born on January 24, 1955, in Villupuram (Tamil Nadu, India),

was called to the joy of eternal life.

She was raised in a large, profoundly Christian family which favored the maturation of her vocation. She entered the Congregation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Bangalore on June 21, 1978, conscientious and at a mature age. At the same location she completed her initial formation, the novitiate, and made her first profession on August 15, 1982. She made her perpetual profession in the parish of her native place of Villupuram on August 30, 1988.

In her request for admission to the perpetual profession, she expressed her joy in definitively becoming a member of the Congregation. She is also clear on her resolution to be faithful not so much to the institution as to the person of Jesus Master: *"I promise to be faithful to Jesus Master, the Way, Truth and Life, of my entire life"* (April 11, 1988).

Following the profession she fulfilled her ministry in various communities: initially she is in Nellore (1982-1985), a house which exercises various activities involving ecclesial ministry. The apostolic collaboration here required availability to various services: care of the Bishop's House, formation of seminarians, prayer in the Cathedral, formation of needy young people in embroidery, etc. She then served in the communities of Mumbai; Chennai, first in the Liturgical Apostolate Center and then in the House for Priests; in the workroom at Delhi; then again in Bangalore in the House for Priests, and then in northeastern India in Kohima for an ecclesial presence of insertion in the missionary Church, in service at the House of Prayer which is also home to all the pastoral activities of the Diocese. She then returned to Chennai at the House for Priests.

According to the testimony of Sr. Kanikai Mary, Provincial Superior of India, she was a unique and exceptional person, quiet and calm, silent and prayerful, always kind, and never complaining. She loved God and the Congregation as her own family. She demonstrated profound sensitivity toward the suffering, especially the priests she lovingly cared for in the House for Priests.

At the beginning of 2014 she was diagnosed with cancer of the brain, a frontal glioma, which caused much suffering despite the treatments rendered in a timely manner.

She learned to transform everything into a continual prayer of intercession, thus living the deepest spirit of our vocation and mission. In her illness, Sr. M. Margaret experienced the love and closeness of the sisters and of many other persons as well. She was always grateful for the care provided for her, recalling that many, the poor, do not have the possibilities offered to her by the Congregation and the Province. She spent the last period in a place for the terminally ill, the "Karunashraya" hospice run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Here, at the first hours of dawn, surrounded by some sisters and relatives, she went to meet her Spouse, who she had loved and sought throughout her life.

Sr. M. Margaret, you greatly loved priests and the Congregation, intercede now for the Society of Saint Paul as they prepare for the Extraordinary General Chapter and the vocational correspondence of all the sisters of the Congregation that you loved so much! Contemplate the face of Jesus Master in joy!

S. H. Paolo Mancini