



Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, November 26, the feastday of our Founder, Blessed James Alberione, at 4:45 PM, the Lord called to himself from the Divine Master community in Albano Laziale (RM), our sister

SR. M. ROSARIA - MARIA MUSILLI,
born on November 30, 1924, in Sonnino (LT).

She loved to recount her vocational story with a healthy realism: “I did not do anything; everything was done by the Lord”. At about fifteen years of age, she began looking for a religious institute that responded to her deepest longing. Having observed the sisters in her town and assisted by the parish priest, she made her request for admission to the Sister Disciples who went to her house for the diffusion of the Gospel. She entered the Congregation in Rome on July 9, 1941, bringing with her the gifts of a youth that was both Christian and industrious.

She was received by Mother M. Antonietta Mareello, who welcomed her joyfully. She was immediately sent to Siena, where another person was needed. “*In Siena*”, she affirmed, “*I was happy and I must thank the Lord who guided me in his will*”. Sr. M. Rosaria is the first among many young women from her town. She introduced them to the Institute, and they later followed her among the Sister Disciples.

After her novitiate, she made her first religious profession in Alba (CN) on October 31, 1944, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1950. Following the profession, with some intervals in the Divine Master houses, she was assigned in the Pauline houses of Rome, Pescara, Bari, Ariccia, Albano, and from 1969 until 1987, she was in the laundry and in the infirmary at the St. Paul community in Rome. From 1987 until 1990 she was the local superior for the sisters at the St. Paul community in Florence, and then from 1990 until 1998 at the St. Paul community in Albano. In her nearness to the Pauline brothers, she developed a great capacity for attention to others, courtesy, and delicacy of soul which manifested itself in exquisite charity.

With the decline in physical energy, she was welcomed into the Divine Master community in Albano as an elderly and infirm sister. Active and filled with apostolic zeal, even in her advanced age and infirmity she collaborated in the apostolate of prayer and of suffering. She committed herself to maintaining her independence; keeping herself vigilant, vivacious, interested in her surroundings, and in the life of the sisters, for as long as her health permitted.

I would like offer excerpts from some of her more recent notes which manifest the richness of her interior life. One is immediately struck by the apostolic dimension that played such a large role in her existence, and it did not suffer from starvation: “*I must tell you something beautiful, also this is a delicate gift from the Lord. On the 31st of this month, it will be 55 years since I made profession, and this coincides with the dedication of the Church of Jesus Master. It gave me great pleasure when I heard about this. On October 31, 1944, I made my profession alone, and it was Fr.*

Timothy Giaccardo who presided. I was alone because I was sick when my companions made their profession” (to Sr. M. Paola Mancini, October 7, 1999).

She had a special affection for Mother M. Lucia Ricci. She wrote of her: “*Madre Maestra was a great woman, wise, intelligent, understanding. She knew how to encourage and solve various problems for all the members of the Pauline Family in Italy and abroad. I never heard anyone speak so well of the Priesthood, of the Eucharist, etc. She gave a face to our Congregation” (Camaldoli October 8, 2001). “Pray that I might become holy because, even with good will, I always find myself on the ground. **His great mercy consoles us, and I always give thanks to the Lord for this great gift” (October 26, 2004).***

She sent numerous letters to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, the current Superior General: “*How I long for the Lord to welcome me with these beautiful words: “Come, good and faithful servant”, etc., but I do not know if I am worthy. I always tell him, **I entrust myself to your great mercy. I have much faith in him and tell our dear Mother Queen of Apostles to accompany me to her and to my Jesus. I am grateful to you and to all. I loved all, but they also loved me. I also thank my family members who have loved me so much, my brother Francesco, my sisters, nephews and grand nephews. I also loved everyone. I also thank you, Sr. M. Regina, and all my sisters, asking forgiveness if at any time I offended anyone. I ask for pardon and greet them. I have always prayed for my community, for my Congregation, and I will continue to do so from Paradise... I also pray for the Pauline Family, for all of humanity. How I desire that all people will be saved!**”* “*May the Lord bless those who have done good to me, and we will be reunited in the glory of Paradise...until we meet again in the garden of Eden”!* (February 21, 2007).

Describing the progressive decline in her physical energy, she affirmed: “*May your will be done; I place many intentions and say: Lord, my parish is humanity. How I desire the salvation of all souls. I pray for all: the Church, the Pauline Family, the dioceses, the priests, the clergy and the entire Hierarchy of the Church, for the Holy Father and the college of bishops, cardinals, etc.” (July 6, 2007).*

As the liturgy guides us in the contemplation of the last things of our existence, the Lord, in his goodness and mercy, places before us simple but transparent witnesses of that which is essential. This assists us in our daily challenges to place Christ, who is coming, at the center of our lives until the end of our time on earth. .

The Divine Master has rewarded Sr. M. Rosaria for her love of the Pauline Family, calling her to eternal life on the feast of Blessed James Alberione, shortly before the Pauline Family in Rome gathered for the Eucharistic Celebration.

May your heart, dearest sister, which is already profoundly apostolic, continue to present to the Divine Master all the urgent needs we have at heart, especially that of vocations!

Sr. M. Paola Mancini