



Dear Sisters,

Today, October 12, 2018, at 2:20 AM, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), the Lord called to eternity our sister

**SR. M. ROSALBA - MARGHERITA COSTANTINO**

**BORN ON JANUARY 17, 1933, AT CERVERE (CN).**

Margherita entered the Congregation in Alba (CN) on November 11, 1950, at the age of 17, following her sister, Sr. M. Montis, who was already perpetually professed as a Sister Disciple. Her vocation matured through an intense Christian life: almost daily participation at Holy Mass, spiritual accompaniment by a priest who introduced her to a life of prayer, including nocturnal prayer, as her vocational story affirms. She was introduced by the pastor as a young woman of praiseworthy conduct. She made her first religious profession in Alba on March 25, 1953, and her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1958. Her requests for admission were transparent, essential, and reflect her sincere and clear character, while the reports of the superiors regarding her underscore her good disposition of correspondence to the vocation.

Following profession, she fulfilled her mission for some time in the Pauline houses, with a joyful attitude and a spirit of “maternal” offering, conscious of the fact that she was collaborating, like the Virgin Mary, in the mission of those evangelizing with the modern means of communication.

As a young professed sister, she fulfilled her ministry cooking in the houses of the Society of St. Paul in Alba, Vicenza, and Albano. From 1958-1961 she was the local superior at the Pauline community of Cinisello Balsamo. She then returned to ministry in the kitchen in Ariccia (1961), at St. Paul in Rome (1963), after having completed a course in culinary formation. In 1965 she offered her service as Local Superior in Albano. In 1968 she was in the kitchen in Alba, and then at the Pauline house of Ospedaletti as a nurse. From 1970-1990 she was in Bordighera as a nurse’s aide. From 1996 she was in the house of Sanfrè: where she took care of the refectory, which she sought to make welcoming and to foster community life. She was also very hospitable to the Cooperators, and especially to the members of the Holy Family Institute, who frequented Villa Loreto for periods of prayer and as volunteers.

Apparently of a robust constitution, she repeatedly had joint problems. Despite the fact that her life was tried also by physical suffering, she never lost her optimism, good sense of humor, and the serenity she transmitted. This was certainly due to a marked spirit of sacrifice that led her also to accept suffering in an apostolic spirit. She also cared for her sister, Sr. M. Montis, who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease in her later years. She herself affirmed: “*I watch over her with great love, and she is content*”.

On the occasion of her fiftieth anniversary of profession, she wrote: *«In looking at this year of my 50th, I give thanks to Jesus Master for all the graces he has given me over these 50 years, while I beg for his mercy for all my transgressions and sins. I thank him for the gift of the beatification of our Father and Founder, who was a father and mother to me, and who helped me in all the moments of trial. I invoke the protection of Mary Most Holy, who always carries me in her arms. She is the Virgin of silence and listening who helps me to be more silent. May I learn to listen to the Word of Jesus, to meditate upon it in my heart and to repeat: May it be done unto me according to your Word.*

*...I resumed my journey of giving, prayer and offering until the Master calls me by name to remain with Him forever» (To Sr. M. Paola Mancini, undated).* Her writings resonate trust in God, in Jesus Master, by whom she felt greatly loved and from whom she hoped for assistance to attain holiness. “*I ask Jesus to be, in every moment, a Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. I extend my prayer*

*and offering for priests. Everything is possible in the one who comforts me” (To Sr. M. Regina Cesara-  
to, Sanfrè, November 13, 2008).*

Suffering for many years from osteoarthritic pathology that forced her to undergo long therapies and hospitalization in various clinics, in 2006 she underwent surgery and radiology for an abdominal neoplasia. After a period of stability in the disease, her condition gradually worsened as it affected various organs and functions, leading to her death.

Among her recurrent intentions was that of vocations. In this time of the Synod, we present to God the offering of her life as a living supplication for the Church preparing to enter into listening and dialogue with young people. She leaves us the example of a disciple conscious of her vocation, seeking Jesus Master, characterized by the totality of her gift, trust in God, and therefore, communicator of that profound joy that belonging to the Lord instills in the soul. May the Divine Master and Mary, Queen of Apostles, lead her into the joy of Paradise! We count on her intercession for the Church, for the Pauline Family, and for the journey of our Congregation.

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*