



Dear Sisters,

Today, January 29, 2020, at 11:15 AM in the Hospice of the Civic Hospital of Bra (CN), our sister concluded her Paschal itinerary

SR. M. UMBERTA - ROSANNA MONTANARI
born April 29, 1944 in Cesena (FC).

Rosanna entered in Alba on December 8, 1962, at the age of eighteen, following the Lord in the vocation among the Sister Disciples. She came to know the Congregation through her sister, Sr. M. Teofana, who had made her profession 4 years earlier on that date. Her family background in farming fostered contact with a land that bore abundant fruits and many other products, leading to great admiration for Divine Providence. Within this family atmosphere she acquired a love for work and for sacrifice. She participated actively in the life of her parish, and her membership in Catholic Action enabled her to grow in Christian values.

Following the novitiate, which took place in Rome, she made her first religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1965. She studied for some years in Rome and then in Milan where she obtained a diploma in women's studies, with a specialization as a dietician. She made her perpetual vows in Rome on March 25, 1971. In her request for admission she wrote: *«I thought about tomorrow and about the past, nothing prohibits me from continuing in this life to which I am aware that I being called and guided. The will to improve and to move quickly in the way of perfection, which today is solid and strong, urges me to ask confidently to be admitted to the religious profession for my entire life among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. It is here that I desire to live always»* (January 24, 1971). The person preparing the evaluation reported her optimal spirit of initiative and confirmed that she dedicated herself willingly to the activities, demonstrating a special love for the spirit and the works of the Congregation.

In her apostolic activities, she was always available to substitute for temporary assignments and her flexibility was appreciated.

In 1971, after a short period in Albano, at that time the seminary for the SSP, she collaborated at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Florence, then in 1972 she was at *Nogent sur Marne* (France) to study the French language, in 1973 she was the local superior in *Ballykeeran* (Ireland). In 1975 she returned to Rome where she offered her assistance in bookkeeping; in 1976 she was the local superior and cook at the Divine Master House in Ariccia; in 1979 she was the cook at Vicenza SP, in 1980 she was responsible for the community in Camaldoli. Following a short period in Cinisello Balsamo, in 1982 she was at the DM community in Naples (Bellavista), running errands for the house; then in 1983 she was the cook in Genoa. In 1990 she was at Blessed Timothy Giaccardo community as the driver and for various services. During the same year, as a result of cardiac pathology, she suffered various episodes of blood clots that caused paralysis of her left side. Thus she began her itinerary of suffering and of special offering. She remained in the Blessed Timothy community in Rome as an invalid from 1991 until 1999, after which she was transferred to the community of Sanfrè. During her infirmity she made herself useful by engaging in activities compatible with her health. For a long period of time she joyfully and enthusiastically

collaborated in the digitalization of the texts of Blessed Giaccardo: this commitment greatly helped her to live her infirmity with faith. She was aware of her particular mission of offering and willingly accepted the intentions entrusted to her. During these final months she was fighting intestinal cancer, which led to her death. She prepared herself for this final encounter by trusting in the Lord and with prayer. Sr. M. Teofana was especially close to her, as well as all the sisters of the Sanfré community: they could appreciate her patience and serenity, with total abandonment to the Lord. Last night she met with the Mother General, Sr. M. Micaela Monetti, who is making her fraternal visit to the community in these days. Together they entrusted themselves to the Mother of God that she may *pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death*.

Ideally we place upon the lips of Sr. M. Umberta the prayer for the upcoming World Day of Prayer for the Sick, on February 11: *«Holy Spirit...grant us the strength to live, the faith to abandon ourselves to you, the secure hope of being with you forever. Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, accompany us to the font of living water that flows and restores for eternity»*. This especially for Sara Bonaccini, the novices making their first profession and the Juniors making perpetual profession during these weeks!

Sr. H. Paolo Mancini