



*Dear Sisters,*

Yesterday, February 26, 2020, in the community of Sanfré (Italy), the Lord Jesus called to himself our sister

**SR. M. CARITAS - MARGHERITA MARENGO  
born on May 18, 1930 in Busca CN (Italy).**

Among the writings of Mother Lucia Ricci there is the account of her meeting with an exemplary mother. This story helps us to understand the family setting in which Margherita was raised until her entrance into the Congregation on October 27, 1947, at Casa Madre in Alba.

“Mamma Virginia – as the mother of Sr. M. Caritas was called – was a “strong woman” who lived the Gospel simply and heroically in the middle of the twentieth century. Upon the death of her husband, she guarded the precious heritage of faith and strong morals. She continued to govern her family wisely and guide her daughters and sons in accordance with God's design. One by one, the three eldest daughters went to their mother to manifest a marvelous secret: ‘The Divine Master is calling me’ and, one by one they went, admitted to the Congregation of the Sister Disciples. At the religious profession they were named: Sr. M. Fides, Sr. M. Spes, Sr. M. Caritas, the three theological virtues”.

In a short writing, Sr. M. Caritas recounts the story of her vocation through the essential traits that characterized her life: “I do not have much to say. However, the Lord called me and I came even though there were already two sisters in the Congregation. The pastor wanted to send me to the sisters teaching kindergarten, but he did not succeed... I am happy to be a Sister Disciple. I did my aspirancy in Alba, with Mother Monica, then the novitiate (March 24, 1949) and first profession (March 25, 1950) in Alba. Later I was in the kitchen with the Paulines in Vicenza (1954). I made perpetual profession in Rome (March 25, 1955), and then I was transferred to the Pauline General House by Primo Maestro (1957), always in the kitchen”. She was then transferred to the Pauline community in Milan (1973). In Modena, from 1980 to 1994, she served as the local superior, with the common sense and generous kindness that was characteristic of her. With extraordinary dedication, she continued to offer her service in the kitchen of the Pauline communities in Florence (1994) and in Turin (1996), recalling the Words of Jesus: *«I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... Whatever you did for my brothers you did for me»* (Cfr Mt 25:34-40). From 2003 she was in the community of Sanfré where – she wrote – *“I find myself well and do whatever I am asked”*. She was tested in her health which gradually worsened until pulmonary edema caused her death, in which she was surrounded by the prayer and loving care of the sisters.

As a confirmation to the vocation received with the new name – M. Caritas – everyone bears witness to her tactfulness in dealing with others, her kindness and availability to peacefully do

whatever was necessary or useful in daily life. At the root of such serenity and availability is the love for Jesus Master and fidelity to daily Eucharistic adoration made with the universal intentions specific to the Pauline apostolic spirituality, in which she was formed from the first steps in the religious life. She concluded her earthly pilgrimage at the vigil of her 70th anniversary of religious profession.

At the beginning of the Lenten journey, in the heart of the night of Ash Wednesday, the call of Sr. M. Caritas to the eternal Passover reminds us of the essential truth for every life: may we too be able to hear the words of blessing from God, our Creator and Lord: *«Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world».*

Sr. M. Michaela Haneth'