



Dear Sisters,

Today, September 5, 2020, the first Saturday of the month, in the Divine Master community of Cinisello Balsamo (Milan) our sister went to eternal life

SR. M. SAVERIA – LUDGARDA BATTISTINO
born on February 26, 1934, in Senglea (Malta).

Ludgarda is one of the first vocations from the Republic of Malta. She came to know the Sister Disciples through a Maltese Pauline priest, Father Joseph Chircop, who introduced her to the Congregation. With the freshness of her 18 years of life, she left her family and the sunny island of Malta to join the Sister Disciples as an Aspirant in the community of Alba (CN) on August 20, 1952.

Upon completion of the initial formation and the novitiate, she made her first Religious Profession in Rome on March 25, 1955, and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1960, also in Rome.

Her knowledge of the English language was valued and, immediately after profession, she was sent to the community of the sisters at the house of the Society of Saint Paul in England. Upon her return to Rome, in 1956, she assisted in the Center for Souvenirs at Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In 1958 she was sent to Nice (France), where she remained for two years.

Immediately after perpetual profession she was sent for some years as a missionary to India and to support the beginnings of our community in Mumbai. This experience deeply marked her religious consecration by expanding its apostolic and universal significance. Upon returning to Rome, she was sent once again to London and then to offer her collaboration for the foundation of our community in Ireland in 1965, at Ballykeeran, where she was appointed as local superior.

In 1971, she was called to be a member of the new community established for the ecclesial ministry at the Vatican Switchboard. Here Sr. M. Saveria placed herself at the service of all with her gift for the languages in which she was fluent: English, Italian, and French.

In 1983 she had an interval of some years from this service, first as local superior in the Saint Paul house of Albano Laziale and then she returned to London, always at the Society of Saint Paul.

In 1989, she returned to the Vatican Switchboard and remained there for as long as her health permitted. In 2008 she went to the General House where she served as portress and fulfilled various services useful for an international community. In 2012 she was transferred to the Blessed Timothy Community as her memory declined and, with time, Alzheimer's Disease would render her ever more in need of care and fraternal attention. Despite this, the illness did not deprive her of the smile and the kindness that characterized her entire life.

Those who had the opportunity to spend time with her bear witness to the apostolic and missionary zeal she expressed even during her regular family visits. She brought and diffused rosaries and other religious articles to help foster the faith. She had a sensitivity for beauty, music, art, and she was always looking forward. For this reason, her presence in the communities was a stimulus for progress and a cause for joy. The testimony borne by her service at the switchboard was characterized by generosity and charity, seeking to assist in the various requests for service.

During this final phase of her life, in the RSA Gesù Maestro in Cinisello Balsamo where she has been residing since November of 2019, despite the worsening of her illness she continued to communicate serenity and peace to the persons assisting her. The community accompanied her by their presence and prayer.

Let us ask Sr. M. Saveria to intercede for all those realities in which she exercised her mission on earth, and for the new, and certainly challenging, apostolic and missionary realities.

Dear Sister, the Blessed Virgin Mary has presented you to the Bridegroom who has come to you in the heart of the night and found you ready for the eternal wedding feast, with the lamp of charity burning. And you responded to him: Here I am, Lord, forever!

S. H. Paolo Mancini