



Dear Sisters,

On December 22, 2020, at the conclusion of this day during the Christmas novena, in the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours infirmary in Montréal (Canada), our sister went to eternal life:

**SR. M. CANDIDE – MARIE PIERETTE LAFRENIÈRE**  
**born on November 9, 1939, in Drummonville – Québec (Canada).**

On July 14, 1955, she left her family to begin the formation program among the Sister Disciples in Sherbrooke (Canada). It is her autobiographical vocation story that helps us to understand the mystery of God's call to religious life among the Sister Disciples. She wrote: *The story of my vocation is a story of Love and of Adventure. It is a story of love - a call by the great Love to live the charism of the sister disciples as a great treasure. A story of Adventure through the experience of being a missionary. In the magazine "La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa", which I received from Sr. M. Lauretana Carnevale, I found the description of the mission of the Sister Disciples. My mother seemed to understand, but I did not because French was mixed with Italian: but this was not an obstacle. I was invited to a vocational retreat; I gained awareness and knowledge about this specific vocation in the Church. This corresponded to my aspirations. I was attracted by the adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist and the priestly service. Although I had some basic formation in liturgy, this area remained somewhat mysterious to me.*

*In my parish, the Eucharistic Adoration was held every Saturday morning during the summer. My confessor, a young priest, insisted that I pray for priests.*

*At the conclusion of the vocational retreat, I met the aspirants and postulants: great joy transpired from them and among them. This joy struck me like a bolt of lightning!*

*I entered as an adolescent at 15 years of age. I was fascinated by the adoration, and the priestly ministry conquered me. A flame vibrated within me: to become a "disciple". Therefore, I undertook all of the stages required for the religious life.*

Following the novitiate, she made her religious profession on April 21, 1958, in Montréal and her perpetual profession on April 21, 1963, also in Montréal.

She spent a great deal of her apostolic life in the Pauline Houses, offering her ministry of daily care and apostolic prayer in the United States and in Canada: from 1960 to 1963 in Canfield (Ohio – USA), then for a year in Sherbrooke (Canada). She responded to her missionary calling when, in 1965, she was called to Italy – to Rome and to Sanfré – and in 1966 she departed for Lubumbashi (Dem. Rep. of the Congo) where, at the community of the Society of Saint Paul, she collaborated with other sisters in the instruction of the aspirants and retouching photographs for the Pauline Editions. These were years of great generosity and love for the vocation and the mission of the Pauline Brothers. Thus she faced sacrifices and the difficulty of inserting herself in this environment, severely testing her physical and psychic health. Upon her return to her native country this missionary experience, which had been lived in such extreme situations for her, would require

of her a long journey of healing and pacification. The sisters of the communities of Montréal and Toronto welcomed her fraternally and together they treasured this experience of purification: as gold is purified in the crucible of suffering, Sr. M. Candide shared her sensibility and gaze capable of recognizing the good and beauty which surrounded her.

A sensitive and artistic person, loving music and nature, her writings reveal details that enable us to understand the work of God in his creatures, in those who entrust themselves to him in simplicity of heart. She knew how to enjoy the small things that count and gratefully spoke about the missionary sisters she met, in the communities and in the fraternal visits.

In the workrooms for ceramics and sewing, she dedicated herself with industrious dexterity, intensifying her vocal and interior prayer to express a daily life filled with Pauline spirituality: to work while praying!

In December of 2014, due to the decline in her physical energy and the increased needs for specialized nursing assistance, she received permission to reside in the infirmary for religious outside of the Institute. These were years of care, serene and constant attention from the Sisters of her community. Upon each visit, she joyfully expressed her gratitude for the care and serene environment that fostered her meeting with God and with others.

The Covid-19 pandemic, however, forced these structures into isolation from other persons but, despite this, they sought to maintain contact by telephone, to the extent that this was possible.

Unfortunately, during these last days, we received the news that Sr. M. Candide was among the patients affected and her earthly pilgrimage, in solidarity with this sector of suffering humanity, concluded in isolation but not in solitude. The community, in fact, accompanied her with constant prayer, in the communion of saints.

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

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, dear Sister, present you to the Bridegroom who came to meet you in the heart of the night and found you with the lamp of charity burning, ready for the eternal wedding feast. And you responded: Here I am, Lord, forever!

*Sr. M. Michaela Ronetti*