



Dear Sisters,

On January 14, 2021, during the first hours of the day, as the community was gathered for Morning Prayer, Jesus our Master and Lord definitively called to himself his disciple and our sister

SR. M. ALBANA – ANGELA VACCHETTA
born on February 21, 1932 in Piovani (CN – Italy).

Her parents welcomed the birth of Angela and, on February 29, brought her to the baptismal font that she might enter into the family of God and become a Christian. It is upon this baptism that her religious vocation was rooted and developed over the years, educated through the simple and industrious life conducted by the families in the Piedmont countryside.

She personally narrates the story of her religious vocation, which was apparent to her by the time she was 14 years of age: in a time of illness, during a stay at a clinic far from her home, she felt that she was sustained by prayer and the loving care of her mother, who took every opportunity to visit her and manifest the nearness of her family. She recounted: "My mother travelled for 20 Km on the bicycle to come to see me". During this hospitalization, she came to know the charity of religious life through the Sisters of Cottolengo. "A good sister of Cottolengo told me: You know, Angela, if you need anything, tell me. I will try to get it for you so that you can heal quickly and return home". Her attentive charity manifested to her the profound significance of a life consecrated to God. "And I thought: if I recover well, I can also go to live with Jesus, if he calls me". Thus the simplicity and incisiveness of the testimony of a consecrated life oriented her choice in life.

It was on October 15, 1953, that she left her family to enter the community of the Sister Disciples in Alba as an aspirant, bringing with her the daily experience that had matured in the poor and industrious setting of her family home. Following the novitiate, she made her first religious profession on March 25, 1956, in Rome; five years later she made her perpetual profession on March 25, 1961, also in Rome. In her consecrated life she integrated the family spirit of Bethany, alternating between daily prayer and apostolate, especially in the communities of the Society of Saint Paul: Ostia (RM), Rome, Catania, Vicenza, Modena, Alba, Turin. She preserved the climate of family and service with a lively sense of apostolate inspired by Blessed J. Alberione: "In the houses you are to be like Mary, the mother who guards the Word of God and gives the quality of consecration to daily life". Silence and service were the characteristics of her interior spirit which did not spare her from suffering and solitude. In these moments she was able to find strength in faith and in the contemplation of the Crucified Master, repeating: "He loved me and gave himself for me" (*Gal 2:20*).

In 2001, when the fragility of her health became more apparent, she was transferred to the community of Sanfré (CN) where, for a few more years, she was able to make herself useful in service to the community, motivating her actions through the participation in the liturgy and daily adoration.

She shared joyfully in the news on the life of the Congregation and enjoyed the progress taking place in various areas; she intensified her prayer and offering for the sanctification of priests and the fidelity of vocations. With frequent writings, she loved to express her nearness to the superiors with the sense of belonging to the family that had been nurtured in her since adolescence.

We give thanks to the Divine Master for the gift of this disciple who matured in service and in faith, silently offering herself to him in the early hours of the day, surrounded by the prayer and care of the sisters in the community.

Let us entrust to her, and the entire community of the Sister Disciples in heaven, the Juniors who will soon be making their perpetual vows in Burkina Faso, Korea and India, and the novices who will be making their first profession in Korea, the Philippines, and in the Congo. Through the mysterious communion of saints, may they receive the inheritance of evangelical wisdom and apostolic charity.

Sr. M. Michaela Haneth'