



Dear Sisters,

While the Liturgy spoke to us about the return of Jesus to the Father, in the Community of Sanfrè (CN), at 12:30 PM on May 12, 2021, the Lord offered us a sign of his closeness with the call of our sister to the eternal Pasch

SR. M. MATTEA - ANNA ROSA
born on August 30, 1926 in Fossano (CN - Italy).

One of the three Rosa sisters united in the vocation of the Sister Disciples, Anna was the first to enter the Congregation on September 7, 1946, in Alba. Sr. M. Salvatore, already in the heavenly homeland, was the eldest and entered in 1947; and Sr. M. Lucianna, who is currently in Sanfrè, is the youngest; she entered in 1952. Another sister, Maria, is a consecrated lay woman. This beautiful family, consisting of four brothers and four sisters, all consecrated to the Lord, and one brother who died at the age of 23 in Russia during the Second World War, was formed by parents we could call exemplary in everything, holy for their exquisite witness of goodness, of religious values, from whom the daughters collected letters and testimony. *«This morning I thought of telling all of you something. First, I want to ask pardon from all of you, and then thank you for all that you have done for me and for papà: may the Lord grant you many merits. I entreat you to love each other, to help each other mutually, and whenever possible, to do many good works for Paradise: it is only this that is important»* (Mother - Caterina, December 13, 1971). Clearly the parents supported the daughters in their special vocation. Sr. M. Mattea, first as a disciple, always took to heart the importance of keeping alive the communion among the sisters and with the members of the beloved family.

In his presentation of her at the time of her entrance into the Congregation, the pastor confirmed the good intentions of this young woman in her desire to follow the religious life among the Sister Disciples, who in 1946 were in a critical period from an institutional perspective. After the initial formation, Anna made her religious profession on March 25, 1949 in Alba (CN) and her perpetual profession on March 25, 1954, also in Alba.

She was among the first sisters sent to study professional nursing at Cottolengo in Turin. She participated in this course together with Sr. M. Giuditta Benzo, from 1951 – 1953.

Among the motivations she expressed in fulfilling this mission, she wrote: *«I understand how this mission is great and even divine: miserable as I am, I am called to prolong human existence, undermined by sickness and threatened by death, I must cooperate so that life may reflower in a body and a spirit... From the Sacred Host, which I adore each day, I will draw the light, strength and every grace to communicate this to souls. Since I am called not only to alleviate the physical suffering but also to communicate to souls the love and goodness of God, I will do this if I truly live the life of a Sister Disciple and be faithful to the adoration at the cost of any sacrifice»* (Alba, December 13, 1952).

This is the spirit that animated her throughout her long life spent entirely at the service of brothers and sisters who were infirm. She assumed this ministry with great generosity and competence. Prepared to respond to the health problems of the growing religious Family, she spent days and nights beside those who were in most need of care and attention. Among these patients we remember especially Blessed James Alberione for whom she was the designated nurse for some years. The common denominator for her apostolate from 1949 onward was nursing: in Alba Casa Madre (1949 – 1971); in Rome San Paolo (1971 – 1975); (1979 – 1983); in Ostia San Paolo (1975); some months later she was in Milan, then in Alba San Paolo (1976); in Sanfrè (1977 – 1979); in Cinisello Balsamo for a short period (1983). She went to Camaldoli in 1984 for various services and also to renew her spiritual energies, for which she experienced a particular thirst, together with a profound search for God and care for her interior life. She then returned to Sanfrè as a nurse (1984 – 2006).

Her own health situation led to a gradual decrease in this service that she had exercised for so long, although she continued to offer whatever ministry was possible for her. Gradually her situation declined to a critical point at which she was unable to continue her activity. She experienced the charity of the community that cared for her and the comfort of her sister, Sr. M. Lucianna (also a Sister Disciple) who was near her, together with other sisters, until her final journey. She lived the moment of her departure to the Father consciously, accepting the intentions entrusted to her, listening voluntarily as they spoke about Paradise that was so near, and entrusting herself to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was ready for the eternal wedding feast.

May Sr. M. Mattea intercede for this humanity which is still a victim to this pandemic, especially for the health of all the members of the Pauline Family!

S. H. Paolo Mancini