



Dear Sisters,

Today, June 25, 2021, at 5:00 AM, as the first light of dawn appeared, the Divine Master took our sister, who for some time had been sharing intensely in his passion, into the joy of his Kingdom

SR. M. LUCIA - LUCIA CABRAS
born on December 14, 1947 in Cagliari (CA).

Lucia can be compared to a flower that sprouts among the rocks that in Selargius (Cagliari) is mirrored in the intense blue of the Mediterranean Sea. Surrounded by seven brothers and one sister, she came from a large family of nine children. The pastor introduced her in this way: *«It is attested that Miss Cabras Lucia, our parishioner, belongs to a family of high Christian formation; she assiduously frequented the sacraments; she was active in the ranks of Catholic Action; she collaborated as a catechist in religious instruction. She has shown herself to be of good character; she is industrious, serious, obedient»* (Selargius, December 4, 1969, Fr. Giovanni Marras).

At just over twenty years of age she responded to the call of the Divine Master and arrived at the "Continent": entering in the community of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Rome on December 8, 1969. She began the novitiate with an international group of young women that was particularly vivacious, and that chose as a name the Easter cry: "Alleluia" Novitiate. She made her religious profession on March 24, 1973. Her baptismal name was confirmed, with the reminder to be light and to bear witness to the light; with the mission of praying for Japan and for the suffering Pauline priests. In her request for perpetual profession she expressed her decisive will to follow the Divine Master and to love him alone; in the evaluation of the formators there is an evident love for the Congregation, interest for vocations and appreciation for the initiatives of the religious family. She made her perpetual profession in Rome on March 24, 1979.

Care for her spiritual work presented a profound tension for her, almost a constant anxiety in the desire to correspond to the will of God. *«Since the perpetual profession I am making an intimately beautiful experience because I feel in a new way the need, the desire to thank, to praise God for everything, in every moment, serene and not so serene. I am discovering the gratuitous Love of God, the care with which he gives himself without becoming weary, especially to the soul that has made a covenant with him.*

Now I find myself in the community of the Vatican, closer to the Pope, to the life of the Church, content to fulfill, for as long as the Lord wants, everything that he wants from me» (to Mother M. Lucia Ricci, Rome, July 9, 1979). She was able to show the positive aspects of every apostolic experience: «*Even the brief experience in the priestly apostolate has helped me and enabled me to understand more deeply the needs of this practical and spiritual side of our vocation»* (October 21, 1974). «*With much patience the Divine Master is working and forming my spirit as he wishes and **on my part I always want to fulfill his will until he considers me ready for the final encounter with him»*** (to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Christmas 2012).

Her apostolic itinerary involved a variety of services, characterized by generosity, joy and a spirit of sacrifice. After profession, she spent a brief period in the ceramics workshop, then at the community Saint Mary Major in Rome, while she offered her service as a secretary to AISC (*Associazione italiana Santa Cecilia*) and studied music (1974-1979). From 1979-1980 she was Rimini, as a collaborator in the Liturgical Apostolate Center; from 1980-1984 in Rome SMM as she attended a course in medical radiology, receiving her diploma. In 1984 she was a nurse at San Paolo (Rome) then from 1985-1988 she was the Local Superior at Alba San Paolo - Famiglia Cristiana. In 1988 she was a collaborator at the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Florence, in 1990 she was the delegated superior *ad tempus* in the house of prayer at Centrale di Zugliano (VI). Following a brief period of assisting in the regional accounting (1993) in 1994 she was appointed Local Superior in Naples and then, in 1996 she offered her service in nursing at the community of the Society of St. Paul in Cinisello Balsamo (MI). She indicated her availability to go to the mission in Africa (in 2000). As she was undergoing the preliminary health examination she was diagnosed with a tumor in the bladder. She then went to Sanfrè offering various services and as councilor for the community as she underwent treatment.

After some months in Albano, where she was assigned to running errands (2006), she went to the Casa Gesù Maestro (RM) as collaborator in the European Novitiate, fulfilling various services (2007-2009). In 2009 she was the Local Superior in Rimini. When the community was closed, she was transferred to Alba Casa Nazareth, and then to Sanfrè as the sacristan. From there, in 2014, she went to the community at the Society of St. Paul in Alba and assumed responsibility as the sacristan for the Temple of Saint Paul. From 2016 to 2018 she was in the General House assisting the secretariat; in 2018 she was the Local Superior in Naples and in 2019, a nurse in Bordighera. From September of 2020, with the recurrence of her pathology, she was received into the community of Albano Laziale where she found a favorable environment for the necessary treatments.

For about 20 years Sr. M. Lucia fought tenaciously and with determination her battle against the bladder cancer, which was constantly monitored and which, a year ago, the oncologist declared it had been cured. Shortly thereafter, within the space of a few weeks, there was the manifestation of another pathology of the pancreas. There were

tests and attempts at treatment, but everything proved futile, since the disease progressed with incredible speed. Sr. M. Lucia prepared herself, with complete awareness, courage and serenity, for the definitive encounter with the Bridegroom. At the dawn of this new day the gates of heaven were opened to her!

At Christmas 2020 she wrote to Sr. M. Micaela Monetti, Superior General: *«My cancer treatment is continuing and I have completed two cycles. I have much confidence that the Good God continues to want what is best for me, whatever that may be. I trust in him! Mary Most Holy, our Mother, has taught me in this time how to respond "Here I am" with readiness and serenity each day».*

She manifested this complete awareness even when, two days ago, upon the invitation of the Provincial Superior, Sr. M. Paola Gasperini, she was administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. With great generosity, the sisters of the community assisted and accompanied her in prayer until her last breath.

May the offering of the life of Sr. M. Lucia obtain for all of us the realization of what she verbalized as her particular intention: that among all, beyond every nationality, there might be an intense reciprocal love since this will be the secret for new vocations.

And let us ask her to intercede for all of us that we may love the apostolate in the spirit of the Apostle Paul!

S. H. Paola Gasperini