



*Dear Sisters,*

Today, October 25, 2021, at 5:40 PM, our sister returned to her home in Heaven

**SR. M. JOSEPH – ANNA CAPRA**  
**born on February 17, 1929, in Bene Vagienna (CN).**

Anna entered the Congregation in Alba on February 15, 1944. She completed her initial formation in Alba during the critical period of our institutional reality with trust and surrender to the person of the Divine Master, from whom she had received a strong call. There she made her first religious profession on April 4, 1948, and her perpetual profession on April 4, 1953. During the period of temporary vows, she fulfilled her apostolate preparing the refectory in Cinisello Balsamo and then in Alba at the Pauline Houses.

Barely a year after her perpetual profession, she received the proposal of becoming a missionary, which already formed part of her dreams. The proposal was to go to begin our community of Sister Disciples in India: a request she accepted with great joy.

On January 31, 1954, Sr. M. Joseph Capra and Sr. M. Dorotea Bruno, companions in the novitiate and in the mission, embarked in Naples with a final destination of Allahabad (India), where the community of the Society of Saint Paul awaited them. They disembarked in Mumbai on February 13, and found two Daughters of Saint Paul there to welcome them. In the following days, they reached Allahabad: thus the beginning of our foundation in India bears the date of February 17, 1954. It was the day in which Sr. M. Joseph celebrated her 25th birthday! It was truly an extraordinary birthday gift according to God's plans, which are unforeseeable to us.

During the voyage, Sr. M. Joseph kept a detailed diary of this experience. It emphasizes the fraternity that was created on the ship among the priests and religious men and women so that, on February 10, they were surprised to have a solemn Eucharistic Celebration for the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Sister Disciples. At the conclusion of her diary, she wrote: *«I wrote something: certainly very little of what I have in my heart; certain sentiments can never be expressed. In Heaven we will read the pages that cannot be written here on earth. I had a world of things, of persons, of ideas: everything I wanted to offer to Jesus»*. Now this interior world of beautiful dreams can find life in heaven. Certainly, the sacrifices lived at the beginning of this mission were not few, but they assured the fecundity of the seeds that were sown.

In one of her writings, she manifests the love rooted in her heart for India: *«I also traveled far away with Sr. M. Dorotea, to Allahabad (India) and, when that house closed, it gripped my heart: were so many struggles, so many sufferings, for nothing? But, looking at the map of India that I have in my room, Allahabad is marked by a small golden cross: I told myself: 14 PDDM vocations came from there in 7 years, therefore, it was not in vain. From there the entire Indian Province began!».*

She remained in India until 1961. Upon her return to Italy, she was assigned to the Liturgical Apostolate Center in Florence. In 1964 she was the sacristan in the temple of St. Paul in Alba (CN) for about 20 years, during which she provided special attention to the beauty and the decorum of the House of God which she loved with the heart of a Sister Disciple. In 1985 she went to the sewing workroom in Milan. Since 2001, due to multiple pathologies gathered along her journey, she was transferred to Sanfrè, where she continued to make herself useful, according to her possibilities.

She shared in the life and mission of two brother priests, each with a particular charism: Fr. Natalino, Somascan, founder of a therapeutic community for young people with various addictions in Gorra (CN), which describes itself today as: *«We are not a group of persons who receive other persons. There is a lifestyle that connects us, a great family that welcomes everyone».* Fr. Natalino died, before the age of 50, in an automobile accident during which he was accompanying a young person. The other brother, Fr. Giuseppe, Salesian, exorcist of the diocese, frequently entrusted himself to the prayer of his sister, in which he had confidence, and which she accepted responsibly, given her particular vocation for priests. When they were ordained priests, the two brothers assured Mother M. Lucia Ricci, then Superior General, of their remembrance in the Eucharistic Celebrations, appreciative that the Congregation is *“so close and open to the problems of priests”*.

Sr. M. Joseph had a great sensitivity that she expressed in a style that was almost poetic. Thus, she wrote to Mother M. Lucia Ricci: *«I would like to thank you in this moment, rather I want to tell you, because I feel that all the joy in my soul is a gift of God...The only thing I desire is to grow in the love of God, to make with him the most beautiful experience of my life, and I think everything else will follow».* Her messages, even brief ones, have this connotation of joy despite her long experience of sickness. Today, in a certain sense, we can see the words of the Gospel applied: *«Woman, you are set free of your infirmity»* (Lk 13:14).

Sr. M. Joseph certainly now glorifies God for all the wonderful graces she experienced during her earthly life! Near the Divine Master, she can celebrate with the Pauline Family in heaven, we ask her to intercede that the Council of the Institute, which has barely concluded, may bear the desired spiritual and apostolic fruits!

As the month of October is ending, the missionary month *par excellence*, let us together ask Jesus Master that the example and intercession of this pioneer sister in accepting the challenge to go and dwell in the peripheries and to face with generous courage the uncertainty of the beginnings, may renew in us and in the younger generations the joy of the mission so that the Kingdom of God may spread throughout the world, bearing fruits of justice and peace.

*S. H. Paolo Haucum.*