



Dear Sisters,

Today, June 10, 2022, at 10:30 AM, at the Ospedale dei Castelli, Ariccia (Rome), the Lord took the hand of our sister and led her to the eternal pasture

**SR. M. DOMIZIA GIOVANNA VIGNOLI**  
**born on November 24, 1941 in Calderara di Reno (BO).**

At this age, 80 years, the words of Psalm (89/90) v. 10 come to mind: «*Seventy is the sum of our years, / or eighty, if we are strong; / most of them are sorrow and toil; / they pass swiftly and we are gone*». The Word of God offers a response to the sentiments that overcome us when faced with the announcement, always unexpected, of a passage to another life. By her parents' choice, the date of baptism is the same as the date of her birth, November 24. The family, consisting of six children: 4 brothers and 2 sisters, was animated by faith, as witnessed in a letter that Sr. M. Domizia sent to the superior of the community upon the death of her mother: «*At home they demonstrated a great faith. My father said: at the funeral, we do not want weeping, but songs and prayers because we believe that we are passing to a better life and, therefore, we must sing. And so it was. I must also say that it was in song that I found the strength to overcome myself better*» (April 9, 1971).

The papers and the photos that pass through my hands as I prepare the memorial of a sister always arouse emotions because they tell a story, the story of the passage of God in the life of a sister. They always hide some surprise, as for example, the parchment finely decorated and entitled: *GRADE AWARD to the student Vignoli Giovanna for proficiency in the study of Christian Doctrine during the year 1950*», attested by the parish in the Diocese of Bologna.

Giovanna entered the Congregation in Rome at via Portuense, on October 11, 1962, the day on which the II Vatican Council began, almost as a prelude to the ecclesial spirit that would animate her.

Already at her entrance she demonstrated her sense of belonging to the family of the Sister Disciples. To Mother M Lucia Ricci, Superior General at that time, she wrote: «*I offer my gold initials for the Monstrance in the new Church of Jesus Master, hoping that Jesus Master is willing to accept also the offering of myself*» (05.05.1963). And, in an undated letter, perhaps from the same period: «*On the occasion of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, I offer my poor earrings for the Monstrance of the new Church of Jesus the Divine Master... The first days were terrible, I cried a great deal and I am still crying: I was undecided whether or not to remain. Now I am happy, I am even willing in some way to suffer for Jesus and those for whom I decided to enter: the priests*».

After the regular formation, she made her religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1965. She was entrusted with the following mission: YOUR PRAYER, YOUR LIFE, FOR

HOLINESS THE DECOR OF THE HOUSE OF GOD, AS YOUR NAME SIGNIFIES. THAT ALL THOSE WHO ENTER THE CHURCH OF JESUS MASTER MAY RECEIVE LIGHT, GRACE, THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED, BECOME HOLY. – PRIEST BENEFACTORS OF THE PIOUS DISCIPLES. – MISSION: INDOCHINA.

She made her perpetual profession in Rome on March 25, 1971. She understood that this is a gift that cannot be compared to the limits of the person who is making the offering.

For several years after profession she was dedicated to study – secondary school in Rome, scientific high school in Bologna. In 1971 she was sent to the house of prayer in Camaldoli, then to Albano SSP, then to Remscheid (Germany) to study German. In 1972 she resumed studies in Religious Sciences at the *Angelicum*. In 1976 she was responsible for the library and the tape library of the RA House in Rome.

In 1979, in response to an ecclesial request, she joined the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops as a “*Writer*”. The General Secretary, His Excellency Msgr. Jozef Tomko manifested his gratitude to the Congregation for this precious collaboration at the service of the Universal Church.

When the Institute deemed it necessary to conclude this collaboration, on December 15, 1987, Sr. M. Domizia received a long letter, from which we offer some excerpts: *«It is my hope that the years of involvement in the activities of the Synod of Bishops were for you not only an exalted way of living the religious ideal of the Sisters Pious Disciples of the Divine Master, but also a personal enrichment that will be a source of joy for you in the coming years. You experienced firsthand the evolution of an institution of the Universal Church, the Synod of Bishops, the expression and instrument of the collegiality desired by the Second Vatican Council and created by the venerable Pope Paul VI. You were personally an active part of this evolution and, since March 12, 1979, the date on which you began your service to the Apostolic See, five Synodal Assemblies have contracted a debt with you. I have the venerable office of communicating to you on this occasion the gratitude of the Holy Father John Paul II, the direct witness on many occasions of your efficient and generous work»* (+Jan Schotte, 15.12.1987). This is followed by the greetings and assurance of prayer for her new service within the Congregation. From 1988, she would be dedicated to the Administration of the Liturgical Apostolate Centers, then in the office of Subscriptions to *La Vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa*, besides her service as sacristan. From 1996 until 2006, in successive mandates, she was appointed treasurer, first on the regional level and then the provincial level. In this service she used her profound spirit of Pauline poverty, fostering the transparency and the responsibility in a task that is always delicate and vital for a Circumscription. From abundant prayer she drew light and wisdom. In 2007 she was appointed as local treasurer for the community of Albano DM. In 2012 she was sent to the General House for various services, then for a period of time in Camaldoli and then she would remain in Albano.

A gradual and progressive cognitive deficit made it necessary for her to remain in the community for the elderly and infirm sisters. For about a year she had recovered from a delicate surgical intervention to treat an aortic aneurysm. With the Covid infection in the Albano community, she required hospitalization from the time in which the intestinal complications of Covid remained unexplained, worsening her general condition until it led to her death.

Sr. M. Domizia, you passed to the Father in silence, obtain for us Sister Disciples, in the preparation for the Centennial the grace to rekindle the charismatic values. We entrust to you our ecclesial ministers, religious and priestly vocations, the Church of Jesus Master and the synodal journey of all the faithful People of God!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*