



*Dear Sisters,*

At 6:30 AM, at the first light of this Marian Saturday, on April 22, 2023, at San Camillo Hospital in Rome, the Risen Christ came to our sister with the invitation to follow him

**SR. M. ROBERTA TERESA LAZZARO**  
**born on April 29, 1941 in Francavilla Angitola (CZ - Italy).**

On May 22 she received the sacrament of Baptism, in the faith expressed by her father Innocenzo and her mother Attisani Maria. With that lamp of faith, lit from the Paschal candle, Sr. M. Roberta would travel through life. Supported by a large family, she entered the Congregation in Pescara, on January 10, 1957. In 1959 she began her novitiate in Rome and made her religious profession on March 25, 1960. She made her perpetual profession on March 25, 1965, also in Rome.

She began her apostolic life in collaboration with the Pauline houses: as assistant cook at St. Paul in Rome (1960) then in the refectory (1962), and the same service in Ariccia (1961). In the bookbinding, first in Alba (1963) then in Rome (1964). She would be in the refectory in Pescara SP (1965), in Albano SP (1965) in Ostia Antica house of SP, where she would also be the cook (1966), then in the refectory in Rome SP (1970). In these various services she manifested her love for the Pauline priesthood, always with an attitude of dedication and generosity. From 1979 she dedicated some time to personal formation, frequenting the school for liturgical animators at St. Anselm (RM) and obtaining her middle school diploma.

For health reasons, she was directed to the embroidery workshop: first in Rome (1978), then in Cinisello Balsamo (1987) then again in Rome (1992) where she also served as local councilor. In 2006 she was at the switchboard in the RA House at Via Portuense, in 2009 she was portress at the General House until 2017, when for health reasons, she transferred to the Beato Timoteo community at Via Portuense.

She felt the presence of Jesus living and active within her, as she describes in her vocational story. *«I consider my little vocational story as a gift from God. From the time I was small, I don't remember what age, I may have heard the call to follow Jesus, that is, to consecrate myself to Him. I always thought of him, loved him, conversed with him, told him everything... Since the time I made First Holy Communion, every Sunday I went to Mass and received the Host, I was unable to play because it seemed to me that I was profaning "the presence of the Lord that was within me"».*

*However, as I grew up, I never thought about marriage...*

*Since in my town some young women went to become sisters, I was waiting for someone to come and visit my family: the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master came. At that time my love for the Lord increased, I felt the love for Jesus strongly, as for a fiancé. I was perhaps 14/15 years of age and I always wanted to go in Church. When I heard the bell, I escaped immediately, even if I was in the fields with my family.*

*One day Sr. M. Giovanna Rondinelli, a Sister Disciple...came to the family and I wanted to leave with her at all costs. I was met with resistance from my parents and relatives who did not approve of my hasty departure. But I managed to come to Rome with her, content and happy...*

*Reflecting upon this, I told myself: it is only a preferential love that could have done this for me. Jesus accompanied me with his grace, day by day, with a special love. I also feel this about Mary Most Holy, his and my Mother, and I gratefully bless him» (Rome CG, May 2012).*

The heart of Sr. M. Roberta expanded in her prayer as she presented to the Divine Master the persons who entrusted themselves to her prayer and for all the needs of the Church. Her face transmitted the goodness and charity that filled her soul. If it was within her power to render a service, even as simple as fixing the rosaries, she found a way to respond. Even the persons outside of the community perceived this spirit of charity: they received the benefits and became affectionate toward her.

Sr. M. Roberta manifested a particular Eucharistic sensitivity. Even during her illness, each day she dedicated prolonged time to Eucharistic adoration, accompanied by the Word of God from which she nourished her mind and interior life. She also distinguished herself for her filial love for the Virgin Mary. She attested that she had the experience of a particular closeness to her in some dark moments of her faith.

Sr. M. Roberta suffered from a congenital renal malformation. She faced the limitations and consequences of this throughout her life, with the inevitable complications. Lately the worsening and precipitous decline of her general condition was due to intestinal cancer which led to the completion of her earthly pilgrimage.

This final stage of her life, marked by much suffering, enlivened within her the desire to go to the Lord, to enter into final communion with him in eternal life, without losing her sense of humor, her smile and the transparency of her goodness.

Sr. M. Roberta, ask the Heavenly Father, together with the Virgin Mary, for the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the sisters who will participate in the upcoming 10th General Chapter, and from Heaven continue to accompany the persons you loved and who loved you!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*