



*Dear Sisters,*

Today, May 29, 2023, at 9:25 AM, in the DM Community of Albano Laziale, the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, presented to the Heavenly Father our sister

**SR. M. GIUSEPPINA – MARIA MENGHI**  
**born on January 24, 1942 in Villa Verucchio (RN).**

She was baptized in the parish church of San Paterniano on the day after her birth, on January 25, with the intercession of the Apostle Paul, on the feast of his conversion.

Maria came to know the Sister Disciples through the projection of the vocational and promotional documentary entitled “*Manto Azzurro*”. Following vocational discernment, she entered the Congregation in Rome on February 10, 1965. She made her first religious profession on March 25, 1967, in Rome, and the perpetual profession in the parish of her native place, Villa Verucchio, on April 29, 1973.

Recalling those days, her parents wrote: «*We – Menghi Giuseppe e Busignani Augusta – the parents of Sr. M. Giuseppina, feel the duty to offer sincere thanks for having accepted our daughter into your religious Family. We also feel the duty to express our most lively thanksgiving for your participation in our joy and the meaningful rite of perpetual profession. It is our hope that our daughter will be always faithful to her perpetual profession and that she may bear witness, with joyful gratitude, to the greatness of consecrating herself totally to God, at the school of the Divine Master. With devout and emotional gratitude, we honor you particularly*». And Don Aldo Joseli, the pastor, added: *Thank you for the joy you gave to me and to the entire parish community.*

The sisters responsible for her formation reported about her: “There is generosity, the desire for good, love for the Congregation, she prays willing and with recollection, practical intelligence, she offers herself generously, precise and responsible”. In her request for admission to the perpetual vows, she expressed: «*I promise, with the help of divine grace and through the intercession of the Queen of Apostles to correspond with trust and generosity to my beautiful vocation until Paradise*» (Milan, January 12, 1973).

In the intimacy of her heart, Sr. M. Giuseppina looked to Mary of Bethany, and in practice imitated the disciple Martha, occupying herself primarily with the services in the community: assistant cook or responsible for the kitchen or the workroom for the clothing,

both in our houses as well as those of the Society of St. Paul. There are many communities in Italy that benefitted from her industriousness and her Eucharistic prayer, bearing witness to her availability for service wherever needed. Finally, in 2020 she was sent to the DM community in Albano Laziale where she assisted in the kitchenette of the infirmary as long as possible.

In various letters, Sr. M. Giuseppina gives witness to the spirit that animates her. We will publish here what she defined as her testament: *«Dear sisters and those in positions of responsibility: I ask pardon of you and also of Jesus Master and Mary Most Holy for that I could have done but did not do, for all of my limitations! I give thanks for all of the abilities received from God that I did not make use of. I am grateful for all the good I have received, especially from those who guided me in the formation and helped me with so much love, charity, goodness, fraternal affection, with much prayer.... This beloved Congregation, from the time I came to know it, I understood that this is the path for my entire life, until Heaven, with our great and beautiful apostolates: priestly, Eucharistic, liturgical... I was fortunate to be, as a young woman, together with my sister, at the service of priestly zeal. Therefore, I grew up with love for priests and religious... Through the grace received from those responsible, I was almost always in the Pauline communities. I always carry you in my heart, with much prayer: the entire Congregation, the Paulines, the entire Pauline Family»* (Rome, March 25, 2017). The younger sisters who shared the mission with her emphasized the witness of her life, the priority she gave to prayer and the spirit of sacrifice lived in the apostolate.

What she expressed in a letter, near the time of the VIII General Chapter, still applies today: *«I pray for you and for all the members of the Chapter in a special way to: St. Joseph, Primo Maestro and Mother Scholastica. And a special remembrance in the participation in the Mass for the beginning of the General Chapter, precisely on the feast of St. Joseph. I was very pleased when the priest spoke about our mission and the origins of the Congregation. We must be the roots of the entire Pauline Family and of the entire world with our adorations. (...) I have always sought to desire the good of all the priests and disciples, dedicated to fulfill my duties as well as possible»*. (to Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Rome, March 22, 2011).

Suffering over a prolonged period from various pathologies, she never lost the awareness that she was fulfilling the apostolate of suffering in the Pauline manner, as Fr. Alberione has always taught us. Yesterday morning, on the day of Pentecost, she was comforted by the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and, with the strength of the Spirit, she prepared herself to go to meet the Bridegroom!

Sr. M. Giuseppina, in Heaven you will continue to tell Jesus Master about the intentions you carry in your heart: the General Chapter and all the needs of the Pauline priests and disciples and the entire Pauline Family!

*S. H. Paolo Mancini*