



Dear Sisters,

On September 13, 2023, at 8:45 AM, in the community of Sanfrè (CN), Jesus Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. CECILIA – LUIGIA BIANCHI
born on April 29, 1924, in Rimini (RN).

On April 30, 1924, the day after her birth, she was brought to the baptismal font in the Parish of S. Lorenzo a Monte, in Vergiano – a sector of the Comune of Rimini – and received the name of Luigia. Still an adolescent, on the first day of January 1939, she entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Turin.

Following the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession on April 6, 1942, in Alba (CN) Casa Madre, and the perpetual profession on May 25, 1947, also in Alba. She spent her first years of religious life, during the period in which the Sister Disciples were not yet canonically recognized, diffusing the Good Press in the communities of Ivrea and of Alba. Sr. M. Cecilia Bianchi was one of the pioneers among the Sister Disciples on Canadian soil, together with Sr. M. Marcellina Brentali and Sr. M. Chiara Zanotto. From Casa Madre in Alba (Italy), they departed for France and, in Havreche, they embarked on November 23, 1948, destined for (Nova Scotia) in Canada. Forty years later she testified: «Reflecting upon the 40th anniversary (1988) of our presence in Québec, my heart sings with you in thanksgiving for the wonders God has done... ..The desire of God manifested by the Founder was realized through the prayer, the faith and the collaboration of everyone. Personally, I have an excellent remembrance of this experience on Canadian soil that brought me many spiritual and cultural treasures. I rejoice for every sign of progress thanks to your inventive and creative spirit, and especially your love for the Congregation...».

At Sherbrooke and Montreal, she lovingly lived our vocation and mission as adorers. Especially attentive to the events taking place in the Church, she experienced each Eucharistic Celebration with devout and active participation, in an authentic liturgical spirit. In many writings, we read the encouragement and appreciation of Blessed Father James Alberione for the editorial commitment and the diffusion of the French edition of the liturgical magazine “La Vie”. In fact, she collaborated for many years, as director, for the publication of the liturgical magazine «La vita in Cristo e nella Chiesa» in the French edition, under the encouragement of Mother M. Lucia Ricci.

Closely tied to Canada, where she lived for about thirty years, she always had good memories of the diocesan priests and the first Canadian Sister Disciples. She was a sister who lived in a serenity and peace that was contagious, enamored as she was with our specific mission in the Church, capable of transmitting its values and beauty. She was able to enculturate herself naturally, appreciating the customs and traditions of the people and admiring the characteristics of the country and of creation.

From 1969 until 1971 she returned to Italy, at the General House in Via Portuense, Rome, where she dedicated herself to photography as a specific apostolate of communication through the beauty of the images, so that everything might transmit the voice of God as Creator and Redeemer. She observed the details with attention and harmony, developing artistic talents that, over time, were gradually refined and that she conserved throughout her life. She then returned to Canada, in Montreal and in Toronto, as local superior and fulfilling various services. For a short time, from 1984 until 1986, she accepted to go to Nogent sur Marne (France) and then, upon her return to Italy, she was assigned to the Oasi Divin Maestro in Camaldoli (Arezzo), where she remained for almost twenty years. She was happy in her vocation and in the House of Prayer where she was able to develop further her human and spiritual gifts of hospitality and fraternity in serving the guests. She was able to enjoy the nature and release the song of her heart and voice, honoring the Saint whose name she bore through religious profession: Cecilia.

She was then sent to Bordighera (2006 – 2012). Generous in her daily service, she continued to honor beauty with the artisanal production of embroidery in gigliuccio, interweaving the threads and the Hail Marys, or the songs, which always accompanied the manual work in our workrooms, as learned from the first years of religious life.

In 2012 she accepted to join the community of Sanfrè, which was better equipped to handle her health needs, and then to Cinisello Balsamo, in the Senior Residence “Gesù Maestro”. Only a few days ago she was transferred back to the infirmary in Sanfrè.

The sisters of the community of Cinisello testify on her behalf: «She was a sister of joy and her smile welcomed everyone who came to visit her, at any moment. She loved flowers, and for the 80th Anniversary of her religious profession she manifested great joy in receiving a vase of flowers that was entirely for her. We remember her in this way: smiling. And she would have gone to meet the Bridegroom with a smile!».

Dear Sr. M. Cecilia, we believe that the moment has come to realize the wish for you of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo, whose writings you conserved: «*Did you invite the Angels in the Eucharistic song of the Gloria? Always bring joy to the house with spiritual songs: may song be the voice, the prayer, the virtue, the apostolate, your life* (Maestro Giaccardo)». Now, yes, you can finally unite your voice to that of the choir of Angels in Paradise. Intercede for us, for the sisters of the Delegation of Canada and for the entire Congregation.

Sr. M. Michaela Monetti