



Dear Sisters,

At the conclusion of the Christmas season, on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:00 AM, at “*Michele e Pietro Ferrero*” Hospital in Verduno (CN), where she was hospitalized, the Divine Master Way, Truth and Life, definitively called to himself our sister

**SR. M. ILDEGARDA – ANGELA MARIA CAMEDDA
born on February 24, 1931 in Sassari (Italy).**

On Saturday, February 28, 1931, the little girl was brought to the baptismal font in the parish of S. Nicolò and the Cathedral of Sassari. She received the name Angela Maria, even though in her family and in Cabras, the place in which she grew up, they affectionately called her Angelina.

On September 9, 1956, she entered the Congregation following the example of a friend, Agnese Careddu – Sr. M. Ernestina – and opened the way for other young women from the same parish. She was received in Rome where, following the regular period of formation, she made the religious profession with forty novices on March 25, 1959. On March 25, 1964, she made her perpetual profession, always in Rome.

Sr. M. Ildegarda is a sister who loved her vocation as a Sister Disciple and lived it in a manner that was frank and consistent, in the apostolate and in prayer. With a marked practical sense, determined and sensible, over time she was able to cultivate a spontaneous artistic creativity which brought to fruition her natural gifts and ingenuity. She soon came to know the spiritual qualities of her Holy Protector, St. Hildegard of Bingen, a Benedictine nun of the XI century. She was inspired by her thoughts and her life which nourished her with liturgical spirituality and the wisdom of nature. She thus progressively refined her soul, arriving at a serenity and simplicity of life proper to one who recognizes the authentic aspects of the religious consecration.

She spent her life as a missionary disciple in various communities, in the exercise of the apostolate of the Sister Disciple, in the communities near the Society of St. Paul - Turin SAIE, Rome SP Film, Pescara, Ariccia, Genoa, Florence, Vicenza – with a brief stop at the Bishop’s Residence in Alba. Then from 1984, she was assigned primarily to our communities: Alba DM, Florence, Fabriano at the diocesan House for Priests. Her days were interwoven with Eucharistic prayer of adoration and celebration, which she experienced intensely, and the hours spent in the sewing workroom or the wardrobe, where she fruitfully, and with precision, used her talents in the service entrusted to her.

Those who knew her more closely testify that she was an ingenious and hard-working sister: like the worker bee she cultivated an innate need to perform manual work. Until the final months of her life, she was always busy interweaving beads and steel wire to make rosaries. A capable seamstress, despite the fact that her hands were no longer steady, she made beautiful cloth cases for rosaries, or other purses of various sizes, with creativity and taste, harmoniously combining small or large pieces of material placed at her disposition.

Some of her letters have been preserved, written primarily in these last years and addressed to the Superiors General. Her clear handwriting and her linear and positive thought bear witness to the deep affection she held for the Congregation, the sincere sense of belonging, and gratitude for the grace of the Pauline vocation. She enjoyed the events of our religious family and of the Pauline Family and desired to participate with prayer and spiritual intentions.

In 1997 she was transferred to Bordighera (IM), a maritime locality that is healthy and quiet. In that house, with a splendid panorama and mild climate, and with the community of the sisters, she spent a long period of time in which she refined, like gold in the crucible, her life as a Disciple of Jesus Master, assuming the mandate of the Founder: *Be ardent to enlighten*. She was truly a lighted lamp, silent and active, loving nature and beauty, capable of peacefully accepting the limitations caused by the decline of her physical strength due to the advancing years, which she experienced day after day.

She was very happy to be in Bordighera and dreamed of concluding her life there. About three years ago, when a transfer to Sanfrè was proposed to provide better care and assistance, she did not want to hear about it. The grace of the Lord, however, worked with her from within and finally she was able to say “Yes” to the Master, accepting the request of the Superiors and, as she testified in a moment of community *lectio*, she “experienced a great peace”. Thus, with docility, she prepared her suitcases and, in April of 2021, courageously faced the journey of the transfer accompanied by that peace and joy she had received as a gift.

A few days ago, due to significant intestinal bleeding and aggressive widespread infections, she was admitted to the “*Michele e Pietro Ferrero*” Hospital in Verduno (CN), where she died.

Sr. M. Ildegarda, as you are in the paternal and merciful embrace of God, intercede for us who, as pilgrims, continue to walk toward this goal. We entrust to you our young women, especially the Juniors preparing for perpetual profession and the novices who have been accepted for religious profession. And, celebrating with us the completion of our first centennial of foundation, intercede for everyone that we may all meekly rekindle the gift of God that is within us.

Sr. M. Michaela Ronetti

The funeral will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the chapel of the community of Sanfrè. Her body will be buried in the cemetery of Sanfrè (Cuneo).