



Dear Sisters,

Last night, July 26, 2024, in the community of Sanfrè (CN) – Italy, at 11:00 PM, Jesus Master brought to completion the Paschal itinerary of his disciple, our sister:

SR. M. FRANCESCA – ANGELA CORRAÏNE
born on February 21, 1941, at Orgosolo - Nuoro (Italy).

Angela was born into a large Christian family that gave her the gift of the Sacrament of Baptism on February 28, 1941. She lost her mother, Pisanu Maria, the day before her fifth birthday. This painful experience marked her life in her subsequent human and spiritual growth. In fact, after frequenting the required schools, she continued her studies and obtained her teaching certification, which enabled her to teach in the state schools. On September 8, 1965, she left her job, the parish and her family to enter our Congregation in Rome to begin the initial formation. The Pastor presented her as a young woman “of irreproachable conduct”.

Following postulancy and novitiate, she made her first religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1968, receiving a “new name” that recalled her father, Francesco, who died about a month after her entrance into the Congregation, and her mother, Maria. During the period of temporary vows, she was assigned first in Cinisello Balsamo as a teacher of the “Immaculatinés”, a “pre-vocational” experience that was coming to an end, and then she returned to Rome. In fact, from October of 1969 until June of 1971, Sr. M. Francesca was asked to attend the Pontifical Institute “Regina Mundi”, obtaining a Masters in Religious Sciences with her thesis entitled: “Il luogo della presenza di Dio nel contesto della secolarizzazione” [*The place of the presence of God in the context of secularization*].

In the month of September of 1971 she would offer her service as a teacher again, at Centrale di Zugliano (Vicenza) where, by the desire of the Founder, a pre-seminar course for children was being held.

She would make her perpetual profession on June 16, 1974, in Cinisello Balsamo and, in 1975, obedience would send her to the community of Cagliari for various services. Confirmed in her love for Jesus Master and in the offering her life as a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master, she continued her pilgrimage in obedience and, in September of 1978, she was called to Milan to offer her service in an office of the Archdiocesan Curia.

A new apostolic orientation was given to Sr. M. Francesca in 1981, when she was called to Rome to attend the “Armida Barelli” school for professional nurses at the Policlinico Gemelli.



Upon completion of her State Certification, in 1984, her apostolic service would always be in the field of nursing, with the exception of the triennial, 2003-2006, when she was appointed local superior in Turin DM. Her nursing practice would be focused, together with other sisters, especially beginning from 1985, on the “priests’ area” of the Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano (Rome), where she would remain until its closure.

In fact, from 1998 onward, we find Sr. M. Francesca, at various times, either in the infirmaries of our houses: in Sanfrè, in Albano, in Rome Beato Timoteo and in those of the brothers of the Society of Saint Paul in Rome. She cared for all in a professional manner and with a profound spirit of apostolic charity. Through the years, she continued her formation and attended various courses for professional nurses on various topics.

Sr. M. Francesca was in the infirmary in Sanfrè, since 2021, where she was suffering for some years from a gradual and global decline in her mental and cognitive health that prevented her from expressing herself. When she recognized the persons and managed to say the name, she was content and her face brightened with a smile.

Yesterday she had received, almost by chance, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and she spent the day as usual. In the evening, however, without warning, a cardiocirculatory arrest led to her passage through death and entrance into the Eternity of God.

In today’s Gospel verse, Jesus Master explained the mystery of the Kingdom with the parable of the good grain and the weeds.

On the occasion of her 25th anniversary of religious profession, Sr. M. Francesca wrote a beautiful synthesis of her journey that shows us the life of a Sister Disciple lived under the gaze of the Master of the Gospel parable, which is a paternal gaze that is loving, patient, that allows the good grain to grow and ripen without pulling out the weeds, before its time, as suggested by the farmworkers. In this light, what she wrote about herself is significant and beautiful: «Timidly, I can affirm and begin to believe that, before God, everything yields and all the obstacles disappear: when God advances in a soul it can cry out for a miracle because it is as if all the opposing forces are sweetly tamed. This is how it has been for me in these years. My amazement and wonder grow disproportionately when I recall in my soul all the past events that could somehow have halted God’s work in me, not only as a consecrated woman, but also as belonging to this Congregation which I love and he makes me love as it is, even with its “wrinkles” and “stains”.

I am amazed and moved by God’s tenacity in his desire that I become a Sister Disciple. He, the Master, went beyond my limits, my extremely frank character, especially in the face of the truth (...). I feel the need to underscore that my marked sensitivity, my self love, has caused me to make mistakes, to perceive limits and fragility, to feel that I am, in a word, an earthen vessel into which the Lord has poured his mercy abundantly. (...). He, the Master, looked upon the gift that he himself had placed within me, thus exalting his fidelity. He saw the irresistible fascination that prayer produces within me, the interior push toward the adoration of reparation and bringing the entire world, he saw the love for the Word that was

studied, prayed, assimilated. Then the inexhaustible love for the others, for the persons placed beside me (...).

But this dilation of love, often for reasons that were hidden from me but revealed only to God, was blocked, misunderstood, a reason, therefore, for bitterness (...). But God supported me, the “pact” was made and he “raised me up on the wings of an eagle”. (...)

My heart is now dilating in heartfelt gratitude to God for having carried me all these years, for the entire journey that he made me undertake and especially for having tested me to know what was in my heart. And it is in the heart and with the heart that I confirm my initial “yes” assumed and therefore enhanced by the “yes” of Christ to the Father for the salvation of his brothers».

Dear Sr. M. Francesca, thank you for the Word of God that was your life among us and for the gift of your apostolic witness as a Sister Disciple. Intercede for us, for the new generations of the Pauline Family, for peace in the world, and that all may follow Jesus Master as Way, Truth and Life in discernment and in vocational growth.

Rest in peace and live in God!

Rome, July 27, 2024

Sr. M. Regina Cesarato
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