



Dear Sisters,

On August 10, 2024, on the Memorial of the holy martyr and deacon Lawrence, at 8:30 AM, Jesus Master visited our community of Sanfré (Italy) and definitively called to himself his disciple and our sister

**SR. M. CANDIDA – ADELE GHIGI**  
**born on March 19, 1928, in Rimini - Italy**

Brought to the baptismal font on the day after her birth, the little girl received, together with the name of Adele, the gift of divine adoption.

On August 5, 1939, she left her family and entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, in Alba – Casa Madre – following the example of Pia, her older sister, Sr. M. Panaghia († 20.10.2019). Some years later, on January 6, 1956, also her younger sister, Laura – Sr. M. Luisangela – would follow the same path.

The young candidate soon proved herself to be generous and good, diligent and desiring to serve the Divine Master in any task entrusted to her, with the practical sense, discretion and interiority that would characterize her throughout her life.

She entered the novitiate on March 24, 1946: they are the important and complex years of our history as a Congregation, committed to obtaining canonical recognition as distinct and separate from the Daughters of Saint Paul as, from the beginning, Blessed James Alberione had envisioned and desired. The novices of the Sister Disciples who, canonically form a single novitiate with those of the Daughters of Saint Paul, obviously experienced this period with greater intensity. They were, in fact, called to discern their vocation and remain firmly in the vocation of the Sister Disciples, for that which charismatically distinguished them from the Daughters of Saint Paul.

On April 3, 1947, Holy Thursday, the decree of diocesan approval was promulgated. Mother M. Lucia Ricci, who until that time had been the Novice Mistress, was appointed Superior General and in her hands a large group of sisters, the first among many, made the religious profession according to the Constitutions of the Sister Disciples.

On May 24, 1947, the Solemnity of Pentecost, following the Retreat prescribed by the Apostolic Visitor, P. Angelico da Alessandria, in Casa Madre - Alba, the novices professed the religious vows during the solemn rite presided by *Signor Maestro*, Blessed Timothy Giaccardo.

With the new name, Sr. M. Candida, she accepted the call to live as a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master, at his school, learning from him and from his Mother Mary, to allow herself to be formed according to his Word: «*Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart and*



*you will find rest for your souls»* (cfr. Mt 11: 28-29). On May 24, 1952, she would make her perpetual profession, always in Alba Casa Madre.

Over the years, Sr. M. Candida grew in the spirit of adoration and of service. She was characterized by heroic faith, assiduous work, and for mutual love, in joy, in silence and in habitual recollection, in accordance with the lifestyle of the Family of Bethany. Wherever she found herself, through her amiability and love for the consecrated life, she aroused the good will and esteem of all: the sisters, brothers, the superiors and lay collaborators. Many of the communities of the Society of Saint Paul were able to appreciate her generous and prayerful presence. Everywhere she gave a human and religious imprint in the service as local superior: Modena, Pescara, Milan – at various times –, Rome at the Institute of Jesus Priest, Alba “Famiglia Cristiana”, Albano, Rome Provincial House, Cinisello Balsamo (MI).


From 1961 until 1967 she was assigned as superior in Centrale di Zugliano (VI). Here the Founder desired to establish a “Minor Seminary” for adolescents who, in a suitable environment, would receive a human and Christian formation, cultivating also the seed of a personal vocation. The presence of Sr. M. Candida, with her maternal and gentle traits, made the setting peaceful and the stay of the boys, far from home, more familial and pleasant. Despite the poverty of resources and the simplicity of the formative program, the quality of the experience was assured by the constant and vigilant presence of the sisters, who had at heart the present and the future of the adolescents entrusted to them by the Founder and by their parents.

At various times as local superior, the sisters of the communities of Bologna, Albano Casa Alberione and Vicenza received the care and custody of their life and mission from Sr. M. Candida.

Filled with years, she died in the community of Sanfrè, where she had been living since 2019. Under the care of the community, and especially of her sister, Sr. M. Luisangela, she completed her earthly pilgrimage in the charitable witness of Saint Lawrence. Her life is well summarized by reading the book of Proverbs: *«A strong woman, who can find her? Her value is far greater than pearls. (...) Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates»* (Pr 31:10-31).

Sr. M. Candida, now that you contemplate the Face of God in the splendor of his light, remember us that we may never deviate from the path of life and that we may remain firm in the Word of God, according to the testimony of the Apostle Paul: *«God loves a cheerful giver»* (2 Cor 9:7).

Rome, Aug. 11, 2024

  
Sr. M. Micaela Monetti