



Dear Sisters,

On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, from the community of Sanfrè (Italy), at 8:40 PM, Jesus Master, Light of the world, definitively called to himself our sister

**SR. M. ENRICA – RAFFAELLA PERLINI**  
**born on October 17, 1932, in Castel d’Azzano (VR) – Italy.**

Baptized in the parish church dedicated to St. Maria Immacolata on October 23, the Sunday following her birth, the little Raffaella, lost her mother at the tender age of three. This suffering would indelibly mark her life, rendering her sensitive and introverted, but generous and responsible toward those who entrusted themselves to her, especially her brother and her father that she would care for, leading her to mature quickly.

She met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master through her aunt, her father’s sister, Sr. M. Luisa Perlino († 2000). On December 7, 1961, vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, at the age of twenty-nine, Raffaella entered the Congregation in Rome, following the path undertaken various years before by Agnese, her older sister, who received the name of Sr. M. Elvira († 2024).

In the letter of presentation to the Institute, the Pastor, Father Remigio Soave, described her as «a young woman of mature age and, therefore, conscious of the step she is preparing to take, of optimal spiritual and moral formation and willing to accept sacrifice. (...) She is perfectly healthy, an untiring worker and her parents are pleased to offer another daughter to the Lord».

Upon completion of the novitiate, on March 25, 1964, she made her religious profession in Rome, receiving the new name of Sr. M. Enrica in memory of her father who died a few months after she left home. On September 3, 1969, she made her perpetual profession in Centrale di Zugliano (VI).

Through her sense of responsibility and the simplicity that characterized her, she confided to the Superiors that “she loved all of the apostolates, but she felt more drawn to the priestly service”. Thus her consecrated life, between prayer and apostolate, was primarily spent in the Pauline communities of the Society of St. Paul: Alba SP, at various times, Modena, Bari, Milan, Rome – in the General House and in Via Alessandro Severo – but also in the communities of the Sister Disciples: Centrale di Zugliano, Vicenza, Albano Laziale, Genoa, Alba, Trento and Bordighera. In 2019 she was transferred to Sanfrè (CN).



Animated by a trusting faith, simple and sincere, she was sustained by the awareness that the apostolate of the Sister Disciple is carried out, like the life of Mary the mother of Jesus, in the daily life of the prayer of adoration and Eucharistic praise. Sr. M. Enrica was a generous and joyful sister in the community, at times quick and jovial, capable of making herself useful without making noise, with the natural response of a person who recognizes the demands of life and faces them.

The example of her aunt, Sr. M. Luisa, and of her sister, Sr. M. Elvira – a missionary in Chile for many years – encouraged her to persevere in the vocation, even as the physical and cognitive decline became more evident.

We remember her meek smile which cheered up persons and places, and her surprise at the recognition that the Pauline brothers manifested for her service in their houses. Among her mementos she kept an autographed note from Father Giuseppe Zilli that he had written to her shortly before leaving for the General Chapter of 1980: «Dear Sr. Maria Enrica, this is the last note I am writing before leaving for the Chapter. I would be greatly disappointed if I was unable to greet you, after many years in this house. I must also thank you because you managed to support us. We are not always attentive, and so the persons who sacrifice themselves for us may have the impression that we are indifferent. This is not true, I guarantee it. Therefore, wherever you go, do not forget us. We have many problems, but we have great confidence in the persons who know us. Thank you for everything, Sr. Maria Enrica, and may God help you always. Devotedly yours, *D. Zilli*, also on behalf of the entire community» (Milan, February 21, 1980).

And now the Pauline community of Heaven welcomes also this good and faithful disciple who presents herself at the Throne of Mercy to receive mercy, with hands that are scented with the works of charity. And, in accordance with the promise of Jesus Master, she hears the Words of Life: «Come, blessed of my Father, receive the inheritance of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. I was hungry and you gave me to eat, thirsty and you gave me to drink... Because all that you did for these my brothers you did for me» (cfr. *Mt* 25:34-46).

Rome, October 30, 2024

Sr. M. Micaela Monetti  
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