



Dear Sisters,

Sunday, May 25, 2025, from the Community Madre Scolastica in Montréal (Canada), at 12:30 PM, Jesus Divine Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. SCHOLASTIQUE – MARIE THERESE MARTHE COUTURE
born on October 3, 1936, in East-Angus – Quebec (Canada).

Baptized on October 4, - the day after her birth – the little girl, together with the filial dignity of those who believe in God, she received the name Marie Therese. She was the firstborn of the Couture couple, whose family would be enhanced by eight children. She was raised in this large family, which was poor but Divine Providence did not leave them lacking in anything thanks to the care and faith of the parents and relatives. She participated in the ecclesial activities of the J.O.C. (Jeanne d'Arc Cormier) and, together with other young women, she asked herself about the future and her vocation. She met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master for the first time during a Eucharistic procession in Sherbrooke, during the fall of 1952. Guided by wise and enlightened persons, she began a journey of interior searching that would lead her to enter as an aspirant in the Divine Master community in Sherbrooke. It was October 3, 1955, her nineteenth birthday.

Since her acceptance, she was struck by the simplicity of the Italian missionary sisters, who did not speak French correctly, and by the “pair of sandals they wore”. She narrates: *«I was attracted by their simplicity and the joy that radiated from their faces. Their smiles expressed everything they were unable to express in words. I discovered in them what I did not find in other religious. I felt called to enter their Congregation without knowing their type of prayer and apostolate»*. The continuous Eucharistic adoration and liturgical prayerlife, the apostolate at the service of priests and of the liturgy drew her into a response of life that progressively became more conscious. She distinguished herself as a young woman who was very active, sociable and very ingenuous, sensitive and generous: gifts that bring to mind the characteristics of St. Martha of Bethany, the disciple and friend of Jesus Master.

Upon completion of the regular novitiate, together with three other young Canadians, she made the religious profession on April 21, 1958, in the Divine Master Community in Montréal. Five years later, on April 21, 1963, she made her perpetual profession in the same community.

Her love for the vocation and the specific charism of the Institute were manifested in her sensitive and joyful spirit, in the generous service that revealed her natural practical sense. The total dedication of herself to the Divine Master living in the Eucharist, in the priesthood and in the Church's prayer of praise sustained her wherever she was sent in obedience for the mission, in the communities of the Delegation of Canada: Sherbrook, Montréal, Toronto, Weston. Whether at the Society of Saint Paul or in our communities, she did not spare herself in the apostolate, which she primarily fulfilled in the workrooms for ecclesiastical tailoring, after having received the diploma in cutting and sewing in



France (1963). Due to her sense of personal responsibility that set her apart, and the care she had for the sisters and the apostolate, she also held positions of responsibility in governance; local superior in Toronto (1967 – 1969); councilor for the Delegation in Weston (1978 – 1981) and in Montréal (1990 – 1997).

Particularly connected to Mother Scolastica Rivata, she invoked her protection in the difficult moments of her life – in particular, in 1991, when she was seriously ill – and, as she tells it, through her intercession she received consolation, interior peace and physical healing. In fact, she jealously guarded among her possessions an autographical text of our *Prima Madre*: «*May Jesus Master fill you with his graces and blessings. May he make you very holy and a perfect imitator of the Blessed Virgin, the first Pious Disciple; may he fill you with his divine virtues, especially his preferred one: holy humility. May your new name find in you the clearest expression of the Sacred Liturgy and sacred liturgical song. Never measure the effort, the sacrifice, but strive to gain as many merits as possible for Heaven. Affectionately, Sr. M. Scolastica*» (December 12, 1963).

With the passage of the years, she continued in simple and daily service through her prayer of intercession and supplication in the Eucharistic adoration and in the kitchen for the small Mother Scolastica community in Montréal. And especially, as a Eucharistic Minister for Communion, she brought the Body of Christ each week to the many residents of the “*Au fil de l’eau*” residence *Centro Garand*, for the sick and elderly. Together with the sick and the elderly, the possibility of receiving Communion was also offered to the family members who went to visit them.

The sisters of the Delegation of Canada recount: «The last remembrance of Sr. M. Scholastique is from two days before her final departure. Sr. M. Carla Silva Sánchez, Superior of the community, went to visit her. At the end of a brief conversation, before she left, she told her that it was necessary to prepare for the Lord’s coming since we do not know the moment at which he will arrive. She responded: “Yes, only he knows the moment of this encounter, and he will come and take us with him”.

On Saturday, May 24, when the Eucharist was brought to her, Sr. M. Scholastique offered her a beautiful smile and the last words: THANK YOU!

Thank you, Sr. M. Scholastique, for all that you have been for us and for all you have done. You loved nature and plants, and did not hesitate to share them. The class in floral art with Ms. Denise-Jeanne Rolland that you attended, released in you the creativity expressed in the marvelous arrangements, especially in the strong seasons of the Liturgical Year. We also greatly appreciated the good dishes you prepared with art and talent, especially the *desserts* that always brought us great deal of joy».

On the Lord’s Day, the VI Sunday of Easter, as the Eucharistic liturgy pointed to the Holy City, the new Jerusalem (cf Rev 21:10-14.22-23), this disciple of Jesus Master was invited to enter definitively into its precious walls, received by the merciful embrace of the Father to remain forever in his fidelity.

Dear Sister, like the little ones of the Kingdom of God, you now dwell in the *city that has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light and its lamp is the Lamb*. Intercede for us that, in the midst of struggles and the darkness of evil, we may continue to be pilgrims in the journey of earthly life, sustained by the Hope that does not disappoint.

Rome, May 27, 2025

Sr. M. Micaela Monetti
Sr. M. Micaela Monetti