



Dear Sisters,

Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Eunpyeong St. Mary's Hospital, Catholic University of Korea, in the heart of the night – at 2:12 AM – the Divine Master definitively called to himself our Sister

SR. M. TEOFANA – YU JIN CHOI
born on August 21, 1971, in Buchang-dong, Nonsan-eup, Chung-Nam (South Korea).

The fourth of five children – two sons and three daughters – on July 12, 1986, almost fifteen years of age, she was baptized, receiving the gift of the faith and the new name of Clara. She was raised with the love of her parents, in a family that was edifying for its dedication to work and the human values of sharing. Although her father and brother were not believers, the family was exemplary in mutual love and fidelity to the daily duties.

When she came to know Jesus, she responded to his call to follow him in the religious life. While she sought an Institute that would allow her to give joy to Jesus, to live in a manner pleasing to him, choosing him alone and consecrating her body and mind to him, she met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. Sensing that the contemplative and apostolic lifestyle of the Institute was compatible with her ideal of total consecration to the Lord, on April 16, 1992, she left her family and entered the Divine Master House in Seoul as an aspirant.

At the time of admission to the Institute, even though all her other relatives were weeping and fighting to dissuade her, her family was so united that they promised not to weep since she would embrace the religious life with the commitment to pray for them: a commitment she maintained until the end of her days.

At the conclusion of the regular course of formation to consecrated life, on September 8, 1997, she made her religious profession and on September 5, 2003, she made her perpetual profession in the Divine Master community of Seoul.

She had a good character, caring towards others and possessed a strong sense of responsibility. A lover of liturgical prayer and Eucharistic adoration, she knew and appreciated the value of mission.

She had various apostolic experiences and, from the end of 2005 until the spring of 2014, almost without interruption, she lived in Rome at the Mother Scholastica Community and the General House. She obtained the Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Theology at the Faculty of Theology of the Gregorian Pontifical University.

Transferred to Auckland (New Zealand), from 2014 until 2022, she offered her ministry in the Cathedral Church and in the St. John Vianney Diocesan House for Priests, coordinating the small community as local superior.



Upon her return to Korea, she was appointed Provincial Secretary: she did not hesitate to dedicate herself to the religious family and the community of the Provincial Government, cooperating with all her heart and seeking, above all, to correspond to the will of God.

In August of 2024, she became aware of the first symptoms of illness and, during a health checkup, she was diagnosed with stage four cancer of the stomach. She was treated with the only anti-cancer medication available to her, while supporting the serious side effects of the treatment. With great suffering, she lived each day awaiting God's response in profound silence, just as he responded to the cry of the suffering Job.

The sisters of her community said of her: "Sr. M. Teofana accepted every apostolic ministry with faith. She dedicated herself with all of her strength, lived a life of humble sacrifice, and never positioned herself in the first place. By the intensity of her resolutions and convictions, she was a disciple who lived the Secret of Success, giving the best of herself in an authentic Pauline spirit".

"Reviewing the life of Sr. M. Teofana, I can testify that she lived the life given to her in fidelity to the name she received at her religious profession. *Teofana* is a name meaning the one who makes God known, who manifests him. Like the women who continually followed the way of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, in her daily life Sr. M. Teofana sought to make Jesus known and loved through her practical, humble, peaceful, simple and calm attitude as a Sister Disciple of Jesus Master. She lived with few words, but with her choices and actions, she was open to dedicate herself generously, especially in the difficult moments that required greater sacrifice".

As a side effect of the eighth round of chemotherapy, Sr. M. Teofana contracted pneumonia and, during the hospitalization, on February 27, 2025, she wrote these words, expressing her gratitude and praise to God:

"Leave everything and follow me". For 33 years I have lived my life following the call of the Lord. I ardently desired that his face be impressed upon my soul, dedicating myself not only with a little, but with my entire being.

As I hurried toward my goal, I become aware of my poverty and the infinite riches of the Lord, and I continued to go ahead, step by step.

Then one day, without warning from my body, I was told that I have cancer of the stomach in the fourth stage: a diagnosis I could never have imagined. I could not believe it I was not concerned about myself, I appeared to be so strong, I had no symptoms...

The course of chemotherapy silently become part of my life.

In re-reading my life, I can affirm that I have experienced the immense grace that the Lord has given me, and I did not dare to ask him why he was doing it. I remembered the overflowing love that I received gratuitously, I prayed for the faith necessary to obediently follow his will.

Like a compassionate mother, the Lord gave me the precious time to spend with my parents, my family and my loved ones, and this gift has been a blessing for me and a love greater than anything else».

In the heart of the night, also for her, a faithful and vigilant virgin, she rose at the announcement: *"Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him"*. And she, among those who were prepared, rose to enter into the wedding feast (cf Mt 25:1-12).

Now we gather her legacy of interior life and apostolic dedication, assuring for her, her parents and relatives, our prayer and closeness as a community of believers.

Truly, Lord, we do not ask why you have taken her from us: we thank you for having given her to us as a companion on the journey and life, in holiness and in the mission.

Rome, November 14, 2025

Sr. M. Micaela Monetti

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