



Dear Sisters,

Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 10:30 PM, from the community of Sanfrè (Italy), the Divine Master definitively called to himself our sister

**SR. M. GELTRUDE – AUGUSTA TESOLIN
born on May 29, 1922, in Azzano Decimo (Pordenone – Italy).**

Some weeks after her birth, on Sunday, June 17, the baby girl was brought to the baptismal font of the Parish Church of S. Pietro Apostolo di Azzano Decimo to receive the great gift of faith and enter into the great Family of God, receiving the name Augusta.

She was raised in a large farming family: father, mother and twelve children. In this setting in which the fundamental human and Christian values were fostered, matured the desire to consecrate herself to the Lord. She was actively involved in Azione Cattolica in her parish, as well as the material and spiritual reconstruction of the area heavily damaged during the First World War. When the Second World War broke out (1940 – 1945), the small town of Azzano Decimo was also subjected to roundups, bombings and sudden aerial incursions that heavily tested the physical and psychological resistance of the inhabitants. But faith and trust in Divine Providence was not diminished. All of this also tested Augusta, who entrusted herself ever more to Mary Most Holy and to the Lord Jesus, maturing the decision to consecrate herself entirely to him.

On October 7, 1946, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, at the age of twenty-four, she left her family and entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Sacile (PN), at the Society of Saint Paul. The pastor who introduced her attested: «Piety, work, obedience are the virtues she has practiced constantly».

The sisters who welcomed her introduced her directly into the Eucharistic, Priestly and Liturgical mission since they carried out daily the task of Mary Most Holy in the house of Nazareth, as Blessed Father James Alberione loved to repeat.

We are in a period of reconstruction following the war, as well as an extremely delicate period for our Congregation, but the young Augusta is determined to continue her life in the House of God despite the uncertainty of the canonical visit taking place, that would be resolved with the Pontifical Approval.

Upon completion of the regular novitiate, on March 25, 1949, she made her religious profession in Alba Casa Madre and, five years later, on March 25, 1954, she made her perpetual profession, also in Alba Casa Madre.



By temperament and her total dedication, consciousness of the precious nature of time and and absolute primacy of God and his glory, Sr. M. Geltrude presented herself as a consecrated woman with an uncommon practical sense, and a profound spiritual life. She spent her days in the presence of God, who is always present, fulfilling with responsibility and silently any task entrusted to her. We remember her as a sister who lived the mission of the Sister Disciple integrally, in the exercise of charity and in praise to God. She loved fraternal life and built it up through her participation: during the community meetings, she was able to express the truth frankly: "This is not good. Jesus is not pleased!".

A woman of great faith and prayer, she was a docile person filled with love and respect for everyone. She had a gaze that was enamored of Jesus, as if her gaze was always fixed on him. She is also remembered for her love of the daily Eucharistic Adoration that she prolonged beyond the required time affirming that she was "remaining in adoration also for the sisters and brothers who do not have time to pray, since they are immersed in the activities of the apostolate!".

Her long life was spent primarily in the kitchen and the workrooms of the laundry and ironing. She was appreciated for her generous and silent service. Not infrequently, she was heard singing the praises of God among the pots and stoves.

From 1959 until 1961, she was sent to Madrid, at the Society of Saint Paul in Spain. The communities of the Society of Saint Paul in Italy, in which she fulfilled her mission, at various times, are: Milan SP, Alba SP, Pescara SP, Catania SP, Albano Casa Alberione. The sanctification of the Pauline brothers and priests was a constant motive of prayer and sacrifice for her.

In Camaldoli DM, Rome SMM and Trento DM, she offered careful service in the kitchen to assure a convivial dimension for all the sisters that is so important in the construction of a fraternal community. From 1997 until 2019 she was in Bordighera DM: here she carried out with flexibility and practicality the various duties, challenging herself to learn embroidery in *gigliuccio* in order to continue to offer her contribution to the decorum and beauty of the Christian celebration.

Transferred to the community of Sanfrè, Sr. M. Geltrude, keeping vigilance over herself and learning to remain active in old age also from a spiritual perspective, cultivated her interior life through the assiduous reading of the Word of God, daily prayer, reception of the Sacraments and participation in the Liturgy, without neglecting the interpersonal relationships. Thus she remained vigilant and prayerful for the arrival of the Lord who, in the night of the Second Sunday after Christmas, definitively called her to himself. And she, like the prophetess Anna, recognized him and promptly went to meet him, just as she had lived.

Dear Sister, now that you enjoy the merciful embrace of God, continue to pray for us, and especially for the upcoming Council of the Institute: that the Spirit of wisdom and intelligence may enlighten the gaze of our heart and guide our steps in following Jesus Master and Lord, way, truth and life!

Rome, January 6, 2026

Sr. M. Micaela Monetti
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