



Dear Sisters,

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 8:20 AM, from the Divine Master community in Albano Laziale (Rome – Italy), the Lord of Life definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. BRUNA – GIOVANNA RIZZO
born on July 31, 1931, in Milan (Italy).

The second of three children, on August 15, 1931, she received baptism at her parish church, the Basilica of S. Eufemia in Milan. In memory of her paternal grandmother, she was named Giovanna. While still a young girl, she suffered the loss of her mother and was entrusted to the care of the sisters of the boarding school but, after a short time, she returned home where she was received by her father and two brothers. During the Second World War (1940 – 1945) the family took refuge in the mountains in order to survive. Once peace was restored, they returned to Milan to live in a small apartment located near the community of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. They began to visit and remained struck by their lifestyle, which was characterized by simplicity, patience and apostolic zeal.

Thus, she became aware that the Lord was calling her to a total consecration to himself; fascinated but resistant, some years passed, as she recounts: «fighting between yes and no».

During the Holy Year, on November 1, 1950, the Feast of All Saints, she was accompanied by Sr. Cormariae Brugiolo, with other young women, who left Milan and travelled by train to Alba to enter as aspirants in Casa Madre. Upon completion of the novitiate, on March 25, 1953, she made her religious profession in Alba, in Casa Madre, and on March 25, 1958, she made her perpetual profession in Rome, in the community of Regina degli Apostoli.

On October 21, 1958, she received the diploma in Sacred Sciences at the Pontifical Institute “Regina Mundi”, defending the thesis entitled «*Gesù Maestro*» under the moderation of Prof. Romano Penna, biblicist.

She then began her mission in Latin America: leaving for San Paolo (Brazil), where for two years (1958 – 1960) she was responsible for the formation of the postulants. She was then sent to Argentina. In Cordoba and Buenos Aires, from 1960 until 1968, she would be novice mistress and local superior. As novice mistress, she would go to Mexico City (1970 – 1972), and then return to Buenos Aires (1972 – 1978) as regional superior and local superior.

Always available, she left for Mexico, where she was appointed regional superior: a responsibility she held from 1978 until 1981.

She returned to Italy for some years to offer her service as local superior of the Casa di



preghiera in Camaldoli (1981 – 1983) and in the Community San Pietro in the Vatican (1983 – 1986).

Thanks to her zealous missionary spirit, she departed across the ocean: this time to Venezuela where she would remain from 1986 until 2018, undertaking various roles and services in the small communities of Caracas DM, Caracas Casa Sacerdotale, Barquisimeto CML: superior of the delegation, councilor and secretary of the delegation, formator for the professed in temporary vows.

She is remembered by all as a cordial and serene sister, grateful for the gift of life and the missionary vocation. She faced misunderstandings and disappointments with silence and a spirit of faith, without losing her simplicity and affection. She was a dear and trustworthy sister also for the priests of the Diocesan Priestly House in Caracas, where the Sister Disciples spent a number of years caring for the elderly and frail priests.

Those who served with her as young women in formation recall her lifestyle, which sprang from intimacy with Jesus Master cultivated in the Eucharistic Adoration and liturgical prayer. She was a formator first of all by the example of her life: a sister who was clear and precise, attentive to the persons, capable of integral human and spiritual sharing, cordial and serene. She knew how to joke with the young women in formation and the sisters, with a sense of humor that lightened the days and rose from the awareness of being loved by God, over all and above all.

She was very positive, attentive and sensitive: whenever, in her role as formator or superior, she had to make some personal observation to a sister, she did not do so in front of others, but took the persons aside and fraternally corrected them with truth and sensitivity.

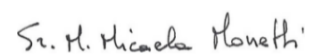
Upon her return to Italy, she was sent to Cinisello Balsamo in the Divine Master community, to be near her family. But it became necessary to transfer her to Albano Laziale (RM), where the structures for medical assistance were more suitable for her health, which had become more precarious. Even in this, she did not lose her serenity. The sisters of the community recall: «She was sweet, good, always smiling, continually giving thanks. She was pleasantly hospitable: if she saw someone standing, she went to get a chair so that the person could be seated.

Life for her was beautiful, even by just looking around. She was edifying by her manner of being with others; she loved everyone, and never made distinctions... When someone became impatient with her, she suffered and asked me: “Why does she treat me like that?” Charity was everything for her».

Now this dear sister, at the end of her earthly pilgrimage, as the Congregation and the world are experiencing important events: the closure of the San Pietro community in the Vatican, of which she was a part, and especially the dramatic situation in Venezuela, a people she loved and Pauline communities in which she served and loved Jesus Master, way, truth and life, for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

To you, Sr. M. Bruna, as you now enjoy the embrace of God, we entrust these realities: continue to be a sister and mother in protection and intercession, as you always did day after day.

Rome, January 8, 2026


Sr. M. Micaela Monetti