



Dear Sisters,

We are notifying you that on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 6:20 AM, from the DM community of Fresno (California), United States, Jesus Master called to eternity our sister

SR. M. GIOVIANA – ANDREINA LUIGIA FRATELLI
born on September 25, 1927, in Cinisello Balsamo - Milan (Italy).

Little Andreina Luigia received the gift of baptism on October 2, 1927, the Feast of the Guardian Angels. She was the eldest of the two children of the Fratelli couple: Erminio and Rossetti Maria Assunta.

She entered the Congregation on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1943, at Casa Madre in Alba (CN), where she made her religious profession on March 25, 1946, almost 80 years ago. On March 25, 1951, on the Solemnity of Easter, she made her perpetual profession in Staten Island, New York, USA.

Immediately following her religious profession, she was assigned to the community in Fossano to work in the Apostolate of the diffusion of the good press. In 1947, she was sent to Rome, at the Pauline community of San Paolo Film, dedicated to the priestly apostolate, where she offered her service until 1948, when she was asked to depart on a missionary journey to the United States. She arrived in Staten Island, New York, in 1949 with a second group of sisters. Since they did not have their own house at the time, she remained at the Pauline House of the Society of St. Paul, continuing her work in the priestly apostolate. She made her perpetual profession in 1951, and was then transferred to Derby, Michigan, where she continued in the priestly service.

From 1954 until 1961, she lived in Staten Island, offering her service in the sewing workroom. From 1961 until 1964, she resumed the priestly apostolate in Canfield, Ohio, as local superior. In June of 1964, she returned to Staten Island as local superior. From 1967 until 1988, she was assigned to our communities in Fresno and Los Angeles, California, as local superior, regional councilor and coordinator for the organization of the Liturgical Apostolate Centers in the USA.

In January of 1988, she was transferred to Boston, where she offered her service until 2019. She was entrusted with the management of the Central Office for the liturgical apostolate,



which coordinated all of the Centers in the United States, in addition to her roles as Regional Treasurer and Councilor. During this period, she had a decisive role in the foundation of our community in Los Angeles. Even in the last years of her life, despite her frail health, she continued to travel between Boston and Los Angeles facing, with a missionary spirit, flights lasting seven hours.

In 2014, in light of her experience and historical knowledge, she was entrusted with the care of the Archives and the history of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in the United States.

The sisters remember her for her personal qualities: a great desire to do good and a strong and generous temperament that enabled her to bring to completion difficult projects on behalf of our Congregation.

Sr. M. Rosalia Rossetti, who had the opportunity to share a glimpse of her final journey here on earth, testified: «I am certain that my call to be a Sister Disciple was matured in the prayer and offering of my cousin, Sr. M. Gioviana. I knew Sr. M. Gioviana when she was already professed: I knew I had a cousin who was a sister in America but everything ended there. My relationship with her matured and solidified as a professed sister to the point of sharing more intensely in prayer, perspectives and preoccupations. Until her last breath, Sr. M. Gioviana was able to unite the history, the events of the beginnings of the Congregation in the USA, with a gaze toward the future. As a person, she was “super motivated”, punctual and precise in everything: in prayer, and especially for vocations, the future of the Delegation, in the apostolate, in showing appreciation toward the sisters, in attention towards others and gratitude toward the benefactors. What heritage does she leave for me and for everyone? The appreciation of the patrimony of my history, of our history as Sister Disciples, and transforming it into a deep and prophetic witness of life for today’s world».

Sr. M. Kathryn Williams, Delegate Superior of the United States/Ireland, wrote: «In her final years, Sr. M. Gioviana maintained her enthusiasm for the mission and a deep love for the beauty of the apostolate. Even as her body weakened, her mind and heart were filled with the desire to “improve always, always to do more!”. I remember her morning walks in the splendid garden of Fresno. At dawn, when the world was still in silence, she walked with Sr. M. Nieves, sharing her thoughts and ideas for the enrichment and diffusion of our mission. After every meal, she insisted upon helping to dry the dishes and serving in any way possible. Sr. M. Gioviana had a special gift for entering into relationship with the benefactors. She was deeply loved by them and her gentle and courteous manner inspired them, in turn, to generosity and gentleness. Even in her last years, as her vision was worsening, she used every available means to read the Word of God and listen to the teachings of the Holy Father. Sr. M. Gioviana was truly one of the pillars in the development of the mission of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in the United States. She died peacefully, surrounded by the affection and the prayer of Sr. M. Nieves and of her community».

Sr. Anne Mary Breen recalled: «Sr. M. Gioviana was a woman with a strong character, and generously placed that energy at the service of the apostolate and the mission. Those who

lived and worked with her, saw a sister deeply rooted in prayer, fully committed in her vocation. She had an extraordinary knowledge of technology and of history. She used these gifts with her whole heart for the good of the Congregation. She had an excellent grasp of the English language and she communicated with clarity and confidence. Even in the last years of her life, she continued to learn and to grow. She became an expert in accounting, attaining a grasp of what many would have found a daunting task – and others often sought her guidance and advice. She was always ready to help, and her generosity and determination were truly a source of inspiration.

Long before *social media* was familiar in our communities, Sr. M. Gioviana used it to keep the sisters connected to the universal and local Church. She downloaded the latest news from the Vatican website and left the copies in chapel so that all the sisters could read them. Through this silent service, she kept the communities informed about the events of the Holy Father and the life of the Pauline Family, helping us to remain united to the Church, beyond the walls of our houses.

The words of Saint Paul seem to echo her life: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7). In her silent commitment, perseverance and unshakeable faith, Sr. M. Gioviana truly lived these words».

Dear Sister, called to receive the reward of your earthly life on the morning of the weekly Easter and in the light of the Transfiguration of the Lord, intercede for us, missionary disciples, that we may truly be disciples of Jesus Master: those who obey the voice of the Father and listen to the sole Master, way, truth and life.

Rome March 3, 2026

Sr. M. Micaela Monetti

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