



Dear Sisters,

Saturday, July 18, 2026, in the community of Beato Timoteo, Rome, at 1:43 AM, the Divine Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. ELENA – MARIA PADULA
born on March 3, 1932, in Senise (Potenza – Italy)

One month after her birth, on April 2, during the Octave of Easter, she received the gift of the Christian faith and entered into the great family of the children of God at the baptismal font in the Parish of S. Maria della Visitazione. It was the Saturday preceding the *Domenica in Albis* and she received the name of Maria: a name that would shape her entire existence toward an intense devotion to the Mother of God.

The second of six children, Maria was raised and educated in life by parents who were hard-working, honest and active participants in the life of the parish. As an adolescent, encouraged by the Pastor, she met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master and decided to leave her family and her native place to enter the Congregation in Alba (CN), in Casa Madre: it was September 8, 1947.

The Pastor attested to the uprightness of her intention: «she is entering solely for the consecration to God» he wrote in presenting her. She would firmly conserve this sincere orientation with coherence, despite the trials of life, guarding it as a treasure in active silence.

She was a generous, sincere, and practical young woman with a promising future for the specific vocation of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master within the Pauline Family.

On March 25, 1951, at the conclusion of the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession in the chapel of Casa Madre in Alba (CN), where, five years later, on March 25, 1956, she made her perpetual profession.

Sr. M. Elena spent the major part of her more than 75 years of consecrated life at the service of the Society of St. Paul in the Marian spirit inspired in us by the Founder: protect the life and vocation of our Pauline brothers – disciples and priests – as Mary of Nazareth protected the life and vocation of her son, Jesus, day after day, in active and discrete silence.

In her various services – sacristan, workroom, cook, portress and switchboard operator, preparing the refectory... she did not spare herself: she was attentive and alert to the needs of those she met.

For some years (1976 – 1983) she fulfilled the mission of the Sister Disciple in the central house of the Institute of Jesus Priest in Rome, animated in prayer and service to assure the priests and bishops of that Christian hospitality inspired from the Gospel, as in Bethany.

She was simple, modest and shy, in her words and in her lifestyle, so much so that she appeared to be austere to those who did not know the delicateness of her soul and her charitable works. Like a mother of pearl shell, in order to appreciate it's value, it's hard outer shell must be masterfully and patiently penetrated to reach its precious heart.

The testimony of two sisters confirm this: *«I met Sr. M. Elena in the community of Saint Mary Major before entering postulancy. She was hard-working, silent and frank. She fulfilled her apostolic service in the kitchen with attention toward all the sisters, without forgetting those who were absent due to studies. She worked in silence, but was also ready to share, as she worked, some word or experience that could be useful to the sisters. One time she told me about a memorable talk she had with Blessed Alberione, repeating his words. They were words that helped her on her journey and, years later, they helped me as well».*

«Sr. M. Elena was a sister who was very close... Personally I felt her nearness especially during the period of my studies, I felt that she was silently present with a strong prayer and sincere affection. Even later, she was always interested in my endeavors and rejoiced in them. She remembered, and asked me whenever I saw her, about my family. I was always struck by her essentiality: hers was a dignified poverty.

I guard as a legacy a phrase that challenged me a great deal: "The Eucharistic Adoration is our great social work"».

When, in 2016, she was transferred from the community of Saint Mary Major in Rome to the community Beato Timoteo, we were able to appreciate that, though physically frail, her hands were perfumed by charity and her presence, vigilant and silent, sustained those who were suffering and asked, even implicitly, not to be left alone. It was a presence consisting of simple actions: a glass of water, a sign of care and kindness, an attentive gaze and empathy for those in need, prayer entrusting them to Mary that she might always “*pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death*”.

Sr. M. Elena passed in our midst and left us a precious heritage. Thus she completed her earthly pilgrimage, walking in the footsteps of Jesus Master, following the example and accompanied by his Virgin Mother Mary.

In the heart of the night, accompanied by the prayer and vigilant presence of the sisters of the community, she responded to the festive cry announcing the arrival of the Bridegroom: «The Bridegroom is here, go out to meet him!». And she, who was ready, went into the Wedding Feast of the Lamb (cfr Mt 25:1-12).

Rome, July 18, 2026

Sr. M. Micaela Monetti

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