



“The bond of charity which united us as sisters in life becomes memorial and prayer. It is transformed into a deeper relationship which finds its completion in the crucified and risen Christ (RV 70)”



Dear Sisters,

On Friday, September 18, 2026, from the San Camillo Forlanini Hospital, Rome (Italy), at 6:50 AM, Jesus the Divine Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. INES – AGNESE ERBI
born on May 9, 1941, in Baressa - Oristano (Italy)

The second of nine children, on May 13 she received Baptism in the Parish of St. George, martyr. On August 12, 1956, as an adolescent, she left her family to enter the Congregation in Alba where, initiated into the Pauline religious life, she completed her formation. At the conclusion of the novitiate she made her religious profession in Rome on March 25, 1959, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Five years later, at the conclusion of the Juniorate, she made her perpetual profession, also in Rome: it was March 25, 1964, during the II Vatican Council and the renewal of religious life.

Sr. M. Ines distinguished herself for her missionary zeal, forged from the first years of her consecration to God. During the period of temporary vows, in 1961, she was sent to Lisbon in Portugal, where she dedicated herself to the service of the community as a cook for a short period of time. Upon her return to Rome, for one year (1963), she was at the Souvenir shop in the Vatican, a place of encounter between faith, prayer, art and the memorial of the apostles. Here she breathed a deep sense of the universality of the Catholic Church and broadened the missionary horizons toward unexplored regions. She had the joy of welcoming the gift of a brother priest and a sister, Teresina, Sr. M. Flavianna, Sister Disciple. She supported their vocational journey by her prayer, witness and wise and essential words.

After perpetual profession, she was sent to the young foundation in Africa: where the mission in Zaire, the current Democratic Republic of the Congo, awaited her. She was sent to Lubumbashi, where the community of the SSP and the Divine Master Community were already “living and active”. Her tenacity of character and sobriety of lifestyle, learned in the family and now by the profession of the evangelical counsels, enabled her to face complex and delicate situations in the mission and in community life.

She was in Lubumbashi and then in Kinshasa, at various times. Here they passed through the critical period of independence from foreign dominance and witnessed the birth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As an Italian missionary, she perceived the human and social drama that the national ransom encompassed. For her, it was a time of a more transparent witness of service and closeness, setting aside the privileges of state and skin color. Thus, she wrote to Mother Lucia Ricci: *“We are living the history of Zaire, with economic independence begun some months ago by the*

President. We are also asked to live and work in the spirit of service to the nation and to the diocese. (...) Perhaps we are now more authentic missionaries than before and we are given the practical opportunity to divest ourselves of being white to serve rather than to dominate. We hope that we, white people, will be able to help them to assume their responsibilities” (Lubumbashi, 03.02.1972).

This same missionary and pastoral spirit, which bears witness to a realistic love for the population and the people of God is manifested many years later in a letter sent to the Superior General from Nogent sur Marne (France): *“We live the mystery of God with humility, faith and hope. We adore his designs in this exodus given to us by living on French soil. We are attentive with the entire national Church to what God wants to tell us in this fusion of new cultures that are interwoven into a secular society that places all religions and sects on the same level. Despite this, there is, on the part of the Bishops, the will to infuse a new spirit of courage in those who want to listen: priests, religious and laity. We trust, collaborate and pray for this effort” (Nogent sur Marne, 12.03.2001).*

Over the years, she also held positions of leadership in the local and Delegation levels, as a council member or as vicar, both in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in France: she is remembered as a woman of God, upright, and loving the specific vocation of the Sister Disciples.

From 1986 until the end of 2019, she was a missionary in France (Nice and Nogent sur Marne), serving and loving Jesus Master, fulfilling various ministries. She was available for various services, wherever her presence was needed, both in the house and in the Liturgical Apostolate Center: cook, driver, centrist, in the sewing workrooms or at the reception at the house for priests, *Les Cèdres*. During this time she was diagnosed with breast cancer, for which she faced surgery and the necessary treatments at various times, with courage and hope.

When she was transferred to the Blessed Timothy Community in Rome, in December of 2019, she consigned herself to a will that, in obedience, saw her as being a missionary in a new way: to broaden her heart in prayer and offering, while narrowing the physical spaces. She inserted herself well into the new community and participated actively, according to her possibilities. Some days ago, after fracturing her femur, she was hospitalized to undergo surgery: unfortunately, deeper analysis revealed diffuse metastasis and that her respiratory and cardiac conditions were critical. Thus, due to a heart attack, her earthly pilgrimage was concluded.

Let us receive, as a wise inheritance, what she wrote to the Superior General: *“The Lord is not in a rush, his Spirit works in the persons with great liberty, patience and respect. Experience has taught me prudence. The uphill journey was not easy for me, in the midst of the torments of the difficulties, misunderstandings, rejections, etc....etc. during these hard years of apostolic experience in France. Africa forged me in the battle, in trial. The Lord and his Spirit sustained me. (...) Everything is a grace, and everything is guided by His Spirit, who blows where and when he wishes”.* (11.07.2010).

Sr. M. Ines concluded her earthly journey during the period in which the planning assembly for the local superiors in Italy was being held and the communities of the Province are awaiting the canonical visit from the General Government: two important institutional events for which we invoke the Spirit of God. May she, who experienced broad missionary and European horizons, accompany us from the heart of God where she rests, that the love for the vocation and the Pauline mission may be kept alive.

Rome, September 19, 2026



Sr. M. Micaela Monetti, pddm