



Dear Sisters,

On March 1, 2022, at 5:00 PM, at *St. Philomena's Hospital* in Bangalore (India), Jesus Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. CATERINA – BRIGIDA ETHICAIPURATHU
born on February 22, 1940, in Alleppey -Kerala (India).

Little Brigida, the second of eight children, was brought to the baptismal font a few days after her birth, on February 29. The desire to dedicate herself to God in the consecrated life arose from the baptismal consecration.

She met the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master and entered the Congregation in Allahâbâd, at the beautiful age of eighteen, on June 28, 1958, the vigil of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles.

Some years later, her example inspired her youngest sister, Annie, to make the same choice in life. She received the name Sr. M. Annie at her religious profession.

She was sent to Rome for the initial formation and, following the novitiate, she made her first profession on March 25, 1962, in Rome. She made her perpetual profession on March 25, 1967, in Mumbai (India).

Her life was characterized by a great missionary enthusiasm and a generous disposition to serve the cause of the Kingdom of God, wherever necessary, in obedience to the requests of the General Superiors.

After the first profession, she attended the school in Rome for general nursing and obtained her diploma in 1963. She then returned to India, first in Allahâbâd, at the Society of St. Paul, and then in Mumbai.

From 1974 to 1975 she was sent to the DM Community in Nogent sur Marne (France); then to Athlone (Ireland) until 1978. For one year she offered her service at the *Regina Cleri* house in Boston, utilizing her training in nursing, but in 1979 she was sent as a nurse to the Hospital *Regina Apostolorum* (Albano Laziale) where she remained until 1992. As a nurse, she rendered her charitable and qualified assistance in Nice (France) in the house for priests "Les Cedres".

At various times she generously spent her energies in service at the Souvenir Centers in Vatican City, where she assisted for a total of almost seventeen years.

Upon her return from Rome, in 2010, she offered her collaboration in Mumbai, especially in welcoming the persons and the care of those who turned to her. Since 2020, she lived in the infirmary in the Bangalore community, but to the extent possible, she never omitted the daily Eucharistic Celebration.

The life of Sr. M. Caterina can be compared to fragrant incense that, while burning, rises up to God. She was a woman of prayer, very systematic, intelligent, gifted with an extraordinary energy that enabled her to be a good nurse for many years. She had a talent for painting and creatively producing various objects.

In her service at the Souvenir Centers in the Vatican, pilgrims and tourists received words of comfort and sharing from her.

Always attentive to the sisters, gentle in her way of treating others, understanding, good to her neighbor, she did not want to burden others. She was courageous and content in her religious life. Often, especially in the last years, she affirmed that she was ready for the Lord's final call. Even in her illness, she was very grateful for all that the sisters did for her.

Her sister, Sr. M. Annie, testified: *She always asked about my health and she was very grateful to me. Her industriousness was a source of inspiration for me.*

The Provincial Superior, Sr. M. Celine Cunha, wrote to us: *I personally met her during my canonical visit to the community of Guru Yesu Bhavan, last February 18, and one of the things she told me is that, for her funeral, she had the desire of being dressed in the traditional blue mantle used by the Congregation in the past for the Eucharistic Adoration. She said it with a beautiful smile. She enthusiastically awaited her 82nd birthday on February 22.*

On February 24 she was brought to the hospital: in intensive care, the doctors declared that she had multiple insufficiencies.

Accompanied by the prayer of the sisters in the various communities, she concluded her earthly pilgrimage on March first.

Sr. M. Caterina, you left us at the vigil of your 60th anniversary of religious profession: as we thank you for all that you were for the mission in the world and in the Province of India, we ask you to intercede for the younger generations and their joyful perseverance.

Sr. M. Michaela Honeth'