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*The Provincial Superior*

Turin, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

*"If you say so, I will let down the nets"*  
Lk 5:5

Dearest Sisters,

The Word of God had guided the life of our dearest Sr. Agnesita in an obedient dialogue, until her "yes" of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018, which introduced her into the eternal communion with the One by whom she had always been loved and loved.

**SR. AGNESITA** (Anna Maria Deledda) was born at Ozieri (Sassari) on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1932.

She entered our Congregation on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1950, in the Mother House-Turin, where she celebrated the stages of her formative journey:

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1951, she made her Vestition,

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1953, she made her First Profession,

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1959 she consecrated herself to the Lord through the Perpetual Profession.

She was brought up in a simple and hard-working family, where she was educated in the Christian values.

During the difficult period of choosing her vocation, she met Fr. Ghisaura, a PIME missionary, who for many years had carried out his apostolate in India, where he had met the Sisters of St. Ann with whom he had collaborated. The priest had appreciated the style of life that incarnated a Charism open to the world without distinction of cultures and people, if not with special attention to the little ones and the poor. His missionary zeal was "contagious" and on returning to Sardinia, Anna Maria and other young girls were inspired to follow Jesus in our Religious Family.

After the period of initial formation, she obtained her Diploma as a professional nurse, at the Cottolengo Hospital.

She carried out her service as Nurse in our Communities of Rome-Viale Marconi, Turin-Mother House, Leinì, Pianezza, then again Turin-Mother House, Fossano, Rome-Generalate and Grosseto. She was always available to transfers, committed to serving in the best possible way the people entrusted to her care whether they were Sisters, children or the elderly.

She identified herself with the reality in which she lived. In the Leinì nursing home, where the elderly people spoke only the Piedmontese dialect, she learnt it very well, thus putting them at their ease. Precisely on that occasion she revealed her innate inclination for languages, which would later on permit her to easily enter into relationship with others.

In these ambiances she also manifested the beautiful characteristics which with she was gifted: a keen sensitiveness, the ability to decentralize herself, a tireless worker, a simple and poor lifestyle, availability to offer attention, understanding and encouragement. She had a sense of humor which she made use of to lift up the spirits or appease tensions with a few witty remarks.

In an increasingly profound way, she developed a strong passion for the Word of God, by which she allowed herself to be guided during the day. Weekly "Lectio Divina" in Community was very important for her and she considered it fundamental for the life of communion.

On the Lord's Word, she received from her Superiors the missionary mandate for Mexico and on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1980 she left for this land, where she remained until 1992. At the beginning, she formed part of the Community of Aguascalientes and later, Tepatitlan and Leon, where she was the Superior.

She was deeply committed to catechesis, in particular for the people of the ranchos. She was a jovial Sister, she communicated with ease, she loved everyone very much and was reciprocated. She accompanied young people in their life's journey whom she "infected" with her life witness, as Sr. Rosa recalls:

*"I met Sr. Agnesita and Sr. Doris who were teaching catechism to the children on the outskirts of my city. I used to ask myself: -Why have they come from so far away to speak about God? I participated willingly in their meetings. One day Sr. Agnesita invited me to a vocational encounter and from that time I began to question myself about the call of God. She encouraged me to become an aspirant in her Community and then she herself accompanied me to the Aspirancy in Aguascalientes. I am very grateful to her for her example of a generous, fraternal and loving Sister. In fact, she took every opportunity to write to me and encourage me, even when she was in Congo and in various Communities of Italy. From her I learned zeal for the mission ad gentes".*

During her stay in Mexico, she was asked to substitute a Sister in Peru for some time and she... went!

In 1992 she was sent as a missionary to Cameroon, in Messamendongo, where she remained for two years. Another culture, another language, but in her heart the same missionary zeal: to love our Good Daddy and to make Him known, and to love the people. Even here she felt "at home".

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1995, a Community was opened in Zaire, at Nsona Bata. In this reality Sr. Agnesita dedicated herself in the dispensary which, thanks to her presence, expanded and could help a greater number of poor people. Her resourcefulness, her joviality, her dedication and as always, her ability to master languages also in their idiomatic expressions, earned the appreciation of the people who called her *mamma "kuluntulu", mother of the village*. The internal guerrilla forced the Sisters to take refuge in the forest. It was a difficult moment and Sr. Agnesita, although eager to stay, was called back to Italy with the other Sisters, in 1998.

Her mission was then carried out, through many different services, in Viù, Turin-Mother House, Rome-Via Giusti, Grosseto, Turin-Via Massena till 2016 when she arrived in Turin-Casa Betania.

In 2018 she was diagnosed with a carcinoma and thereafter, with atrial fibrillation which, due to complications, required repeated hospitalization at the Cottolengo hospital. She gradually accepted the pain of not being able to be autonomous until she was able to do so with serenity, but it cost her more to be physically far from the Community. However, she continued to be interested, participating with her mind and heart in the life of her Community and of the whole Congregation.

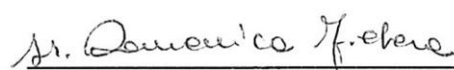
Towards the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> September, her health declined rapidly and at 9.00 p.m. she breathed her last, fraternally assisted by her Superior, Sr. Marieta.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 in the Chapel of the Mother House by Msgr. Giacomo Martinacci. The Sisters of her Community and those nearby were present. After the final hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe, her body was accompanied to the monumental cemetery of Turin.

While we pray for the eternal rest of Sr. Agnesita, let us carry in our hearts her "spiritual heritage", expressed in the words of Sr. Marieta *"Thank you for what you are and for all the good you have given to the Congregation and to all those who have shared with you the journey of life. Thank you for your simplicity and joy, your generosity and hard work, for your humility and your strong sense of belonging to our Religious Family"*.

Dearest Sisters, may Sr. Agnesita's life-witness and prayer of intercession sustain us in living our belongingness to our Religious Family and to the Universal Church, so that the world and in particular young people may be "infected" with the joy of the Gospel.

I greet all of you with love.



Sr. Domenica Fichera, Superiora Provinciale