

Suore di Sant'Anna

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The Provincial Superior

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*"They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd
and he will guide them to springs of the waters of life". (Rev 7: 16).*

Dearest Sisters,

Once again, "Sister death" knocked at the door of the Community of Casa Betania, confronting us with the harsh reality of separation from a dear person, but we know that in the light of the Crucified Christ everything becomes grace: sickness, poverty, even that which seems to be the most irreparable of all evils, physical death. We would like to believe that our dear Sister Amabile is now led by the Lamb "to springs of the waters of life".

Sister Amabile (Baggio Graziosa) was born in San Martino di Lupari (Padova) on 28th December 1937.

On 7th October 1955, she entered our Congregation in Turin – Mother House, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

on 10th August 1956 she made her Vestition;

on 10th August 1958 she took her First Vows;

on 8th September 1964 she consecrated herself to the Lord forever through the Perpetual Profession.

After her First Profession, in 1958, she was sent to Narni to help in the kitchen and to assist in the Kindergarten wherein she poured out her gifts of sensitivity and kindness towards the children.

In 1976 she was sent to Monterotondo as Superior and trainee and a few years later, in 1978, to Castelfidardo again as Superior. She spared no sacrifice, provided for the needs of the Sisters and without being asked, she offered herself generously.

Having obtained her Teacher's Diploma, in 1982 she was transferred to Santena as a Kindergarten teacher. Kind and gentle in her dealings, despite her shyness, she knew how to establish delicate relationships with those whom she met on her way, always ready to help those in need.

In 1984 she carried out the service of Superior in the Formative Community of Turin – Mother House, a task which she fulfilled as a true mother towards the young ones in formation and to all in the Community.

In 1986 she was transferred to Narzole, where she remained for about 10 years, first as Superior, then as a teacher in the Nursery School and Catechist in the Parish, where many remember her as "*an authentic religious who, with much sacrifice, dedicated herself to the children and their families*".

In 1995 obedience called her to Leini as Coordinator and teacher in the Kindergarten. Sr. Amabile stayed in this Community only for a year, in fact, the following year, 1996, she was sent to Turin – Via Massena, once again as Coordinator and teacher, a service in which her availability and serenity allowed her to have beautiful relationships with teachers, parents and with all those who came into contact with her.

In 2011, our dear Sister received again the mandate as Superior of the Community of Santena, where she remained for three years before being transferred in 2014, to the Community of Narzole where she resided, in as much as her illness permitted her, until a few months ago. It was a reality which Sr. Amabile loved much and in which she felt deeply loved. After many years and many calls to obedience, returning to Narzole after almost twenty years, was for her a bit like a home coming. Unfortunately, her stay in Narzole was abruptly cut short by the brutal and sudden manifestation of an illness that required her greatest and most painful "Yes" which, as a first step forced her to leave her beloved Narzole and spend long periods of time in Turin-Casa Betania in order to undergo the appropriate therapy. Nevertheless, during the year 2015 she underwent a surgical operation and was diagnosed with liver cancer with widespread metastasis. Sr. Amabile was then subjected to treatment which she faced with the hope of recovering and returning, at last, to her Community. For a few months, the situation seemed to have improved, so much so that it was possible for her to return to Narzole, even though

briefly. Unfortunately, at the end of the year, the situation took a turn for the worse for which it was necessary for her to go back to Turin to the infirmary of Casa Betania.

Those were months in which Sr. Amabile, aware of the seriousness of her condition, had to little by little, accomplish the painful yet docile act of abandonment to God's will which manifested itself every day showing her the path along which it was leading her. In a particular way, the last month of her life was characterized by silence, by docility to the care of the Sister Nurses, by gratitude expressed in many ways to the Institute. Thus, almost on tip toe, Sr. Amabile left us on **7th March at 06.05 a.m.**

Sr. Felicia remembers her this way:

"Amabile is the true identity of our dear Sister. I have known her since the Noviciate, as a woman of simple faith, always available, ready to come and help, welcoming. She had a keen eye, that foresaw the needs and without being asked, she used to offer herself with great generosity. This attitude continued all throughout her life. In fact, we were still together in Via Massena from 2003 to 2006. In this period of time, I was able to still enjoy her true friendship and fraternal love, finding in her a great support. She helped me a lot to blend into a world which was new for me and then when the restoration work was under way, to renovate the building in accordance with the norms, she didn't spare any sacrifice in order to deal with emergency situations, despite her already precarious health. I never heard from her the words: "I cannot"; rather, she used to leave her work, saying that she would do it later. A heartfelt thanks to Sr. Amabile for her example as a true Sister of St. Ann".

The sacred Funeral Mass was celebrated on 9th March in the Chapel of the Mother House, packed with persons, many of whom came from Narzole and were accompanied by their Parish Priest, Fr. Angelo Carosso, who presided over the Mass together with Fr. Matteo, Parish Priest of Santena. Present were also the relatives of Sr. Amabile, the Sisters of the nearby Communities and many other persons who had had the joy of knowing her.

During his homily, Fr. Angelo, referring to the Gospel of the day, exhorted those present to experience the funeral celebration in joy and faith, confident that we are not meant to remain in the tombs, but for "a resurrection to life". He then affirmed that Sr. Amabile was a wonderful example of humility and prayer and by way of predestination, almost like a joke of Providence, she incarnated in her life the meaning of her names: *Graziosa* (Gracious), a channel of grace and *Amabile* (Amiable) for the wealth of human virtues, of faith and charity to which she gave witness through her loving dedication especially towards the children. At the end of the celebration, Sr. Franca Rita who had been Sr. Amabile's companion during the formative period in Religious life, gave her farewell address:

"Dearest Sr. Amabile, it is painful to wish you goodbye, but our faith tells us that the final, fraternal encounter prepared for us by the Lord, will never end! You have already reached that wonderful dwelling full of light and love, where the Lord God, our Good Daddy, has welcomed you and made you share in His divine life; where you continue to live immersed in the Trinitarian beatitude. Assist us on our earthly pilgrimage. We have lived together the joy of the divine call. We have experienced and shared together the various stages of our formative journey with such simplicity and enthusiasm. Our meeting again in Casa Betania, marked the beginning of another difficult and painful "journey". We did everything we could, following the indications of the doctors of Cottlengo Hospital in order to ease your sufferings. Unfortunately, the cancer had demolished your energy, but not your courage to fight silently and tenaciously. Silence was one of your radical virtues, you never told us that you were in pain... and how much! One had to guess the degree of your suffering to be able to give you the medication that would have relieved you a bit.

You lived to the end that silence which characterized you in the Noviciate. I had the great suffering, but also that deep emotion of faith of being there when you breathed your last, and for having gently closed your eyes, which later you opened, surely in the presence of the Father who is rich in mercy. Pray for us all so that our attention and dedication to the sick Sisters may always be filled with tenderness and kindness. Pray for your family who was so close to you during this time. I also ask your prayer particularly for our Religious Family. Mother Francesca and Sr. Gabriella are also spiritually present and assure you of their prayers".

After the Holy Mass, according to the desire of Sr. Amabile's relatives, her mortal remains were buried in the tomb of our Religious Family in Carmagnola, where some of her family members reside.

Dearest Sisters, let us learn to offer to Jesus Crucified the faithful fulfillment of our daily duties and our little crosses in order to alleviate the immense pain of His suffering and to cooperate with Him in the salvation of souls, while we are preparing ourselves to live the forthcoming Holy Week.

I greet you all with affection,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior