

**SUORE DI SANT'ANNA**  
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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 14 May 2012

*“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined  
to be conformed to the image of his Son”. (Rom 8:29)*

Dearest Sisters,

The Season of Easter in which we are now living, helps us to welcome with luminous eyes Sister Death who came to visit us once again, taking with her our dear Sr. Amelia. Now, our Sister can contemplate the beauty of Divine Life to which all of us are called: to become more and more conformed to the image of Christ until the fulfillment of our being.

**Sr. Amelia** (Ollino Domenica) was born in Turin on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1930.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1952, she entered our Congregation in Turin – Mother House, where she celebrated the events of her formative journey:

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1952 she received the religious habit

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1954 she made her First Vows

and on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1960 she consecrated herself to the Lord forever through the Perpetual Profession.

A woman of faith and abandonment to God's will, right from her birth, the Lord associated her to His Cross, sustaining her day after day in her “Fiat” that was ever more faithful and generous. She entered the Noviciate and almost immediately, in 1954 was nominated Boarding Mistress in Turin – Mother House. She was close to the girls, she bore their problems which she lived along with them. In Sr. Amelia they found a person greatly sensitive to their needs and with a capacity to love and to offer herself to each one.

In 1965 she was transferred to Moncalieri where she continued her work with the Boarders as a tireless educator.

Having obtained her diploma in foreign languages (English) and in accountancy, she taught English in the Elementary School for many years, manifesting a big heart in which everyone had a place. She experienced the painful situations of others as if they were her own and she had words of comfort for everyone. In silence and prayer she brought solace to the poor, stooped down to them, listened to them, went in search of them and even helped them materially. She offered her smile to all and found time always to listen to others. Teachers, parents and students remember her with affection.

In 1978 she was assigned as the Local Bursar, a service she carried out until 2009.

An intelligent person and gifted with artistic talent, she knew how to marvel at and to enjoy beauty in its various forms with the simplicity of a child. She handled the brush skillfully, combining colors with taste and harmony, painting especially ceramics.

Sr. Amelia showed a capacity for accepting serenely the illness that took its toll on her body, drawing strength from constant prayer which united her to God. She never complained, but was always thankful for every little gesture and was very grateful to the persons who were with her,

specially to Sr. Maria Elena Escobar Porrás, who took care of her with much love and to whom we are very grateful, and also to Sr. Severina and to the whole Community whom she loved much.

Our dear Sister had been suffering for quite a while from asthma and during the last two years, her breathing condition gradually worsened which necessitated the use of oxygen therapy. On the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> May, due to kidney failure, she was rushed to the hospital in Moncalieri where at 12:30 a.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012 she suddenly passed away, in the presence of her Superior, Sr. Giovanna Maria Cocco.

The funeral Mass was held in the Chapel of our Institute in Moncalieri. Some of us, Sisters from the Communities of the Mother House, Casa Betania and the nearby ones, participated in it. Together with the Sisters of the Community of Moncalieri, the Teachers and students of the School, Sr. Amelia's two sisters, nieces and nephews and many of her friends were also present.

The celebrant, Fr. Paolo Comba, former Chaplain of the Community, began his homily with the invitation from Jesus: *"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"*. This invitation, he said, became concrete and true in the heart of Sr. Amelia and at the end of her life. She was a woman of great charity, a faithful daughter of the Church, which, together with the Congregation, she served with great availability and charity.

Fr. Paolo, who had accompanied our dear Sister in her spiritual journey, highlighted how Sr. Amelia had lived her spiritual motherhood towards priests, offering to Jesus her physical and moral sufferings for the good of the priests. Her charity is one that knows the language of the heart and her suffering was surely "the present time" which St. Paul speaks of. So, while we commend Sr. Amelia's life to the arms of the Father, let us wish her with the words of the apostle: *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us"* (Rom 8:18).

The funeral Mass concluded with the *"Message of gratitude"* Sr. Amelia left to us and which was read out by Sr. Maria Elena, as the last task requested from her by our Sister:

*"I thank God and the Virgin Mary for the gift of life and religious vocation; I thank specially my parents who taught me to love God and His Mother. I am also very thankful to each of my Sisters for the time and the consolation I had during these last trials of my life. I thank specially Mother Ernestine and Mother Franceschina for their constant accompaniment. Thanks to Sr. Giovanna Maria for her exquisite tenderness every day. I thank Sr. Angela Bertanza for the delicateness with which she has always lavished love on me.*

*I thank my family, all my friends and the persons who have made me happy with their smiles.*

*I personally and especially thank each one, because you are all important to me.*

*From up there I will remember you all, certain that you will remember me too, with affection. Goodbye!"*

At the end of the funeral Mass her body was taken to the Cemetery of Moncalieri, where she now rests together with our other Sisters in the tomb of the Community.

To her, who so loved the Congregation, let us entrust the journey of our Religious Family, in particular, the needs of our Italian Province, which continues to experience pain and suffering.

I greet you all with affection,



Mother Franceschina Milanesio, Provincial Superior