

SUORE DI SANT'ANNA

Provincia "Carlo Tancredi e Giulia di Barolo"

Via della Consolata, 20

Tel 011/234.22.30 - Fax 011/234.23.37

The Provincial Superior

Turin, 23 March 2012

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt 25: 34).

Dearest Sisters,

Together with you, I wish to confirm our faith in these words of Jesus, at the death of our dearest Sr. Casimira who, we believe, now participates in the Feast which God has promised to the righteous. Thanks to her good and reserved nature, she understood the value and significance of her own being, in silence and hiddenness. God hides Himself in the little ones of this world in order to take us away from the temptation of greatness. Sr. Casimira understood well the words: *unless you become like children, you will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.*

Our dear Sister, who had long been suffering from chronic bronchitis and cardiac insufficiency, was recently rushed to the hospital for intestinal obstruction; unfortunately, it was irreversible. She passed away peacefully at **10:30 p.m. on Sunday, 18 March 2012.**

Sr. Casimira (Bonomelli Giacomina) was born in Valle Savio (Brescia), on 8th October 1920. In her family, rich in faith and industriousness, she learned the values of honesty, simplicity and love for assiduous work, values which she grew in and which she practiced all through her life.

On 9th February 1944, she entered our Congregation in Turin–Mother House, where she celebrated the events of her formative journey:

her Vestition on 10th August 1944

her First Vows on 10th August 1946

her Perpetual Profession on 10th August 1952.

Our dear Sister began her apostolate in the Community of Santena in 1946, where she carried out her service as cook. In 1951 she was transferred to Frassinello and then, in 1955, to Narzole. During the years spent in these Communities, she was observed to be a Sister who was hard working, generous and affable. She did her part in doing everything which depended on her, so that God could do His part. Oh, what wonder is the encounter between the divine will and human willingness and Sr. Casimira always entrusted herself to His Will!

In 1959, taking up the same task, she was in Carmagnola - Immacolata for 10 long years, then, in 1969 she was sent to Caorso. Even in these Communities, Sr. Casimira, by her silent example and her constant prayer, gave witness to her love for Christ through her fidelity to little things.

Transferred to Bra-MendicITÀ in 1971, she remained there for four years and in 1975, she was called by obedience to Turin-Mother House. This is what a Sister writes about her: *“With a spirit of faith and sense of responsibility she carried out her service as cook trying to give the best of herself. Sr. Casimira was a person whom one could always count on, at any time. She*

was a simple soul, generous, prudent and always smiling, even when certain circumstances tried her patience to the utmost. She was respectful to all, especially towards her Superiors for whom she used to offer her prayers along with her daily labours”.

In 2006 Sr. Casimira joined the Community of Pianezza, where she continued to make herself useful by helping wherever there was need. The Sisters cherish a beautiful remembrance of her goodness and simplicity.

In the morning of 21th March, in the Chapel of the Mother House, the funeral Mass was celebrated which was attended by 14 nieces and nephews of Sr. Casimira. They came to pray and to pay their last respects to their dear Aunt. Also present were the Sisters of the two Communities of the Mother House and some Sisters from the nearby Communities.

At the beginning of the celebration, Sr. Franca Rita bid her goodbye with these words:

Dearest Sr. Casimira, I have always felt deeply in harmony with you, simple and good, who aimed at essentials. You preserved, in fact, the values which you had learned in the family: simplicity, concreteness, love for silent and hard work. You worked in the kitchen, prepared the meals with care for the children and the Sisters; your meek and good character led you not to mind fatigue nor sleep, in fact, if any Sister came late and perhaps you had tidied up everything, you would eagerly begin again to prepare quickly something which you deemed would be pleasing to the Sister.

Through your simplicity and goodness at all times, you gave a beautiful witness in the hospital, inviting the patient next to your bed to pray, making her remember the prayers learned in childhood. The last day I was with you in the hospital, you became aware of the imminence of your end: you repeatedly made the Sign of the Cross and opening your arms in a gesture of offering, with a smile and a serene gaze, you abandoned yourself into the heart of the Lord.

Thank you, Sr. Casimira, for the testimony of your life offered to the Lord; pray that each one of us may never lack generosity and concrete love for Him.

The Chaplain of the Community, Fr. Sergio Giordani, celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Commenting on the parable of the Final Judgment, he exhorted us to believe that Sr. Casimira “now participates in that feast which God has promised to the righteous. We believe that, with the veil of the knowledge of earthly things removed, her gaze now contemplates the Eternal. We believe that the tears of doubt, of hardships, of difficulties are wiped away: God has promised it. We believe that Sr. Casimira, who hoped in the Risen Christ, has finally encountered the God who called her to life and that she has responded: **Here I am!** We believe in all that God has promised. The destiny which we have outlined for our Sister Casimira, is the destiny of each one of us. Now, she is no longer in the kitchen, but participates in that banquet that God has prepared and promised to His children: We believe it!”.

At the end of the funeral Mass her mortal remains were taken to the Monumental Cemetery of Turin where they now rest together with our other Sisters.

Let us raise our prayers to God for the soul of our dear Sr. Casimira and to her intercession, let us entrust the fidelity and perseverance of each Sister of St. Ann, so that in humility and simplicity of heart, we may give glory and praise to the Most Holy Trinity.

I greet you all with affection,



Mother Franceschina Milanesio, Provincial Superior