

## **Suore di Sant'Anna**

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*The Provincial Superior*

Turin, 30 January 2016

*Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,  
and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
... according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord! (Ps 25)*

Dearest Sisters,

Less than a day after Sr. Costanza's demise, the mystery of suffering and death once again made itself present in Casa Betania. We adore it through the eyes of Mary, who lived her "*Here I am*" till the end. And to the heart of Mary, who received Jesus after He was taken down from the Cross, we entrust our dearest Sr. Clemens who had a tender devotion to her, especially under the title of "Our Lady of Consolation".

**Sister Clemens** (Pacchiotti Paola) was born in Barge (Cuneo) on 15 August 1921.

On 4 November 1945, she entered our Congregation in Turin - Mother House, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

on 10 August 1946 she made her Vestition

on 10 August 1948 she made her First Vows

on 10 August 1954 she consecrated herself to the Lord forever through the Perpetual Profession.

In 1948, while still a young Professed Sister, she began her apostolate as an Elementary Teacher at the Mother House in Turin. After a few years, however, she had to leave teaching due to health reasons. In order to treat her case, it was necessary to admit her into a sanatorium from 1952 to 1953. As soon as she was discharged, Sr. Clemens returned to the Mother House in Turin where she made herself available for whatever was asked of her.

In 1955, she was transferred to the Community of Grosseto where she resumed teaching and in 1957, to Acireale. In 1962, she had to interrupt teaching once again for health reasons: she spent those days of sickness between Monticelli and Turin-Mother House.

In 1964, she was sent to the Community of Turin, Via Massena as assistant Bursar. In 1965, she resumed teaching at the Mother House in Turin and the following year, in Acireale where, from 1970, she took up the responsibility in the School Office, a work she carried out with great precision and devotion. Not everyone who approached her was able to perceive her deep desire to do good, to do things well, beyond her manner which, at first sight, seemed gruff and restless.

There are some persons in whom it is more difficult to “detect”, beyond their appearance, that interiority which makes them beautiful, above all in the eyes of God. Sr. Clemens was one of those: determined, full of life and vigour, and as long as her health permitted it, she put her gifts of mind and heart at the service of her beloved Congregation.

In 1979 she was sent to the Generalate in Rome to assist the Secretary and in 1986 she was nominated as the Provincial Secretary of the then South Central Province of Italy (ICM), with its seat in Roma-Via Giusti where, in 1991 she also held the office of Provincial Bursar. Sr. Clemens carried out this service with a sense of responsibility, through and through, often at the cost of sacrifice and sleepless nights. She was always willing to meet the requests made by the Sisters, with steadfast and sincere love. She was particularly attentive and ready to grasp and satisfy even the expectations of the Superiors toward whom she always had great respect.

In 1996, she was transferred to the Northern Province of Italy (IS), in Turin - Mother House and subsequently, formed part of the Community of Casa Betania. Sr. Clemens' adherence to God's will in this succession of calls was always prompt, despite the difficulty caused by age.

Then, when she had to “surrender herself”, due to her declining strength, she did not lose her humorous expression and wit; at the same time, little by little, she allowed the Lord to take away what He himself had given her. Thus, her last years were filled with prayer and daily offering. It was customary to see her in the wheel chair before the statue of Our Lady to whom she used to present the needs of the Congregation and its latest aspirations.

The last months of our dear Sister's life were marked by a slow decline. Her body, already weakened and become more and more frail, was gradually wearing away until the **21<sup>st</sup> of January** when, at 1:55 p.m., Sr. Clemens passed away serenely surrounded by the Sisters who were praying for her.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> January in the Chapel of the Mother House. During his homily, the celebrant, referring to the Jubilee Year, underlined: *“These days, many doors of Mercy have been opened and our faith gives us an answer for the door that was opened today for Sr. Clemens... God is waiting for us somewhere because He is a Merciful God. Sr. Clemens, who has passed through this door, begins a life of eternity: God has swallowed up death forever. (Is 25:8). Today, Sr. Clemens was able to confirm this promise. We do not know how long this journey will be, but we are certain of not being alone, as we have repeated in the Responsorial Psalm: “The Lord is my Shepherd I shall want for nothing.” Yes, the Lord is our Shepherd who guides us in our path. Jesus, the bread of life, nourishes us and gives us light to renew our faith and resume our journey in the hope of meeting Him finally”*.

At the celebration were present Sr. Clemens' brother, nieces and nephews, and the Sisters of the nearby Communities. Her body was accompanied to the Monumental Cemetery where she now rests together with the other Sisters who have preceded her.

Dearest Sisters, while we thank the Lord for the precious gift of Sr. Clemens' existence, let us present to the God of Mercy the whole life of our dear Sister, in the certainty that He will also immerse in His infinite ocean of love, each of her faults and failings. Let us ask the Lord for her, the joy of eternal repose in the contemplation of His face. Let us accompany her with our prayers and entrust her to the power of God who liberates His friends from their burden and the chains of death in order to give them eternal life..

I greet you all with affection,

  
Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior