

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, 27 February 2012

*"At an acceptable time I have listened to you
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.
See, now is the acceptable time,
see, now is the day of salvation!"*

(2 Cor 6: 2)

Dearest Sisters,

On the day the Church solemnly began the holy Season of Lent with the Rite of the Imposition of Ashes, Sr. Dina passed away, after having celebrated on her "altar-bed", Mother Enrichetta's birth into heaven.

Our dear Sister had been hospitalized for serious lung problems. On Wednesday morning, **22nd February**, due to further serious complications, we were given the possibility of bringing her back to the Community, where at **2.15 p.m.** on the same day, she expired, surrounded by some of us in prayer.

Sr. Dina (Rivalta Elda), born in Frassinello Olivola, (Alessandria) on 21st December 1920, had decided, since her childhood, to dedicate her life for the good of the youth and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann when she was only 18 years old.

Deeply motivated, she lived with seriousness the various events of her Religious life:

Entrance into the Noviciate (Turin, 16th November 1938)

Vestition (Turin, 10th August 1939)

First Profession (Turin, 10th August 1941)

Perpetual Profession (Turin, 10th August 1947).

Seriously committed to her studies, she graduated with a degree in Arts in 1947 and in Foreign Languages in 1955. Her life was spent in the two Communities of Turin: the Mother House and Via Massena.

She was sent first to the Mother House as Teacher in the Vocational School, and then from 1961, as Teacher and Directress of the Boarders in Via Massena, the Community of which she was a member for 48 long years.

She put all her energies of mind and heart into the educative mission and in 1976 was appointed Principal of the Technical Institute.

The profile of the "*Principal Sr. Dina*" reveals some particular characteristics.

She was a person who loved the Lord and sought to make Him loved, for this reason she was always aware of being an "*Educator of the faith*". As a result, she herself felt the need to embark on a journey of faith through personal and community prayer. She felt that "*she was sent*" to the youth by the Congregation, to which she felt a deep sense of belonging, which she always expressed through the respect and esteem she had towards the Superiors.

All tasks were important to her, but the priority of time was given to the Lord and to her Community whose rhythm of life she respected. The Lord and the Community were the resources that prompted her to offer herself full-time to the educative mission. She lived among the girls like a mother and a friend, giving herself to all, and in particular to the weakest and to the ones who

needed help the most. In her formative work she was able to establish cordial and collaborative relationships with the parents, some of whom kept up long-term relationships of affection and gratitude.

She felt the need for continuous updating: knowledge was not an end in itself, but it permitted her to communicate better and to give herself more. She was a serious and competent Teacher, professional in her apostolic work. The Community, the Congregation, the School, were “her dwelling place” in which she felt at home and at whose disposal she put all her gifts.

Behind Sr. Dina’s severe countenance, was a hidden delicate sensitiveness and generosity, above all, for those who approached her for the solution of some problems.

Having finished her service in the School, in 1995 she was appointed Superior and Bursar of the same Community in Via Massena and during the last years of her life, free from all duties, she dedicated much time to prayer and deepened her relationship with God, keeping in mind the needs of our Religious Family, of her natural family to which she was very close, of the Church and of the world.

In 2009, our dear Sister suffered a stroke, and after she had been admitted into hospital and given appropriate treatment, she was welcomed into the Community of our Elderly and sick Sisters at Pianezza, where she was cared for and helped until the end by our dearest Sister-Nurses whom I heartily thank for their precious and tireless service to our sick Sisters.

The funeral Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of the Mother House on Friday, 24th February.

On behalf of the Superior, Sr. Marina Luzzetti and the Sisters of the Community of Via Massena, Sr. Gianna Vendoni Capitani, presented a brief profile of Sr. Dina and at the end, thanked her for all the good that she had sown in many hearts, for her example as a Religious and as a Teacher: *“Today, your School still has many students, so the harvest is plenty ... the labourers are few: ask the Lord, on our behalf, for what we need. We do not know what is best for our Congregation at this historical moment”. Together with the many Sisters who, like you, have worked in Via Massena, obtain for us the hope and the courage to still proclaim, to the youth of today, the good news of the Gospel”.*

Fr. Sabino Frigato, a Salesian priest who knew Sr. Dina well and Fr. Paolo Merlo, the Chaplain of Via Massena, celebrated the funeral Mass. During his homily, Fr. Sabino, commented briefly on the Word that was proclaimed which, he said, *“is like a ray of light on the spiritual journey of Sr. Dina; her fixed point was the Crucified One and not even her long life, tried by illness, separated her from the love of Christ. For her, sister-death came at the end of a life spent in long educative service, through which she had given herself totally to the Lord”.*

The celebration was attended by the Sisters of the two Communities in the Mother House, our dearest Mother Clelia and some Sisters from the nearby Communities, the relatives of Sr. Dina, the Rector Dr. Vincenzo Arnone and some Teachers of the Institute at Via Massena, some ex-students, friends and acquaintances of our dear Sister.

At the end of the celebration, the body of Sr. Dina was taken to her birthplace, Frassinello. It was received in the Parish Church where the foundations of her faith had grown and developed. After the solemn Mass, it was brought to the Cemetery where it now rests with her loved ones in the hope of enjoying for all eternity the beauty of the Paternal Face of God.

Dear Sr. Dina, we implore you: protect us from heaven! With confidence, we entrust to your intercession, the request that each Sister of our Religious Family be given *“the true spirit of our Holy Institute”.*

My fraternal greetings to each one.



Mother Franceschina Milanese, Provincial Superior