

SISTERS OF ST. ANN

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The Provincial Superior

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*Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness,
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up (Is 45: 8)*

Dearest Sisters,

The mystery of death and life is intertwined in an inexplicable manner, leaving us often dismayed. During this Advent season we were faced with this reality! In fact, a few days after the departure of Sr. Luisanna, Sr. Fiorangela too left us very suddenly. Such events urge us to open our hearts to be available to a will greater than ours, far from our reasoning, to enable us to accept the gift of Life that always comes and always saves us. The mystery of Christmas is above all the proclamation of salvation of a *God* who saves.

Sr. Fiorangela, as usual, after the community prayer of the Christmas Novena, had gone with the Sisters to the community room, when she began to feel very ill. The nurse was called, who promptly rushed to her aid and having ascertained the seriousness of the situation, took her immediately to hospital, where she died in the Emergency Room, while the doctors were doing their best to help her. It was around 10:00 p.m. on 17th December 2016. The dear Sister, who lived in silence, went in silence to eternity.

Sister Fiorangela (Nicolina Fatica) was born in Oratino (Campobasso) on 9th May 1927.

On 24th September 1947 she entered our Congregation in Rome - Viale Marconi, where she celebrated the stages of her formative journey:

on 15th September 1948 – she was vested

on 15th September 1950 – she made her First Profession

on 10th August 1956 – she consecrated herself forever to the Lord through the Perpetual Profession.

Sr. Fiorangela was a simple, peaceful person, transparent and delicate in her dealings; characteristics that distinguished her in a specific manner. As a child she was left motherless, however, this did not seem to have affected her joviality and openness towards life. She was very close to her sisters and loving toward her nephews and nieces, who reciprocated that affection and also demonstrated it on the day of her funeral.

In 1955 Sr. Fiorangela was sent to Poggio Cinolfo to carry out various services. The following year, in 1956, she was in Druento with the same task and in 1957 she was transferred to Sant'Urbano. For her, these were years during which she grew stronger in the path of consecration, when she put to good use her hard-working spirit and made herself loved for her ability to be always available to those who turned to her, availability that remained her characteristic even during the last years of her life, so much so that often she could be heard saying: *as long as I can, I will help, where there is a need, I am available.*

In 1963 Sr. Fiorangela, for health reasons, spent some months in the Mother House, during which her participation in community activities was not interrupted and she dedicated more time to personal prayer, eager to recover as soon as possible, to be able to resume her apostolate, until the following year when she was transferred to Chieri to help in the Nursery School and then, in 1965, was assigned to the Community of Portacomaro Station as assistant cook. In the twenty years or so of her stay in this Community, Sr. Fiorangela carried out her work with a great sense of responsibility, giving the best of herself: respectful and helpful, she had peaceful relations with everyone and rejoiced in being able to help and make others happy.

In 1986 she was transferred to the Community of Moncalieri to lend her services in the refectory. Even in this Community, she spent many years, carrying out the task that had been entrusted to her until 2003, the year when she was welcomed into the Community of Rome - Stella Maris. Here Sr. Fiorangela offered her service as the sister in-charge of the wardrobe, until the last. Although elderly and with mobility limitations, she did not neglect anything of her work and while ironing, she was always heard humming some religious tunes. It was good to be in her company; she never expressed words of criticism and if some disagreement occurred, she was ready to apologize.

On 20th December 2016, in the Chapel of the Community of Stella Maris, the funeral Mass was celebrated, which was attended by the Sisters of the Communities of Rome and by her nieces and nephews.

During the funeral Mass, the celebrant, quoting from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor 4:16) made reference to *our earthly house destined to dissolution. Yet, though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. This daily renewal for Sr. Fiorangela was reflected in her progressive acceptance of the Father's plan for her and her increasingly intense preparation for her final encounter with the Lord.*

After the Holy Mass, as per the desire of her family members, her body was buried in the cemetery of Oratino, her hometown, where she now rests next to her loved ones.

Dearest Sisters, we are now at the end of Advent, and already we can see the light of Christmas. Let us prepare ourselves for this great event of our Salvation by making room for God by listening to the Word, in silence, prayer, and availability, with a big heart but with an attitude of a child. This is the Christmas willed by the Lord, and this was taught to us by our dearest Sr. Fiorangela for whom we continue to offer our suffrages, as we ask her to intercede for our whole religious family.

I greet you all with affection.


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior