

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
E-mail: casamadre.to@libero.it
10122 TORINO

The Provincial Superior

Turin, 30 November 2015

*"Be faithful until death,
and I will give you the crown of life". (Rev. 2:10)*

Dearest Sisters,

We have just remembered our dear departed who have gone before us to the Father's House where we also will be one day. It is important therefore, to live awaiting the Lord and to keep alive the thought of when He will come to take us. Our dearest Sr. Gennarina was found ready at the coming of the Bridegroom who reserved *the crown of life* for her. Every day of our life is also for us a step closer towards the wide-open arms of God, our Father, who awaits us in heaven.

Sister Gennarina (Grandillo Brigida), was born in Oratino (Campobasso) on 8th November 1927.

On 14th February 1947, she entered our Congregation in Roma – Via Buonarroti, where she celebrated the significant events of her formative journey:

on 15th September 1947 she made her Vestition

on 15th September 1949 she made her First Profession of Vows

on 10th August 1955 she consecrated herself to the Lord forever through the Perpetual Profession held in Turin – Mother House.

After her Temporary Profession, in 1949 she was sent to Montopoli for a period of rest. The following year, 1950, she was transferred to Turin - Via Massena, where she carried out her service as Portress and Teacher in the Apostolic School. In her interaction with the young girls, Sr. Gennarina brought out that longing for God, often hidden in many of them, but which she tried to revive through her beautiful testimony. From the first moment in which Jesus came into her life, calling her to follow Him, Sr. Gennarina became an icon of humanity that seeks and finds, and after finding, follows. A real journey of faith made up of simplicity, availability and generosity.

One of the Aspirants who had our dear Sister as Teacher, thus says:

"For us, 'Aspirants' who had the grace to live our adolescent years in the Apostolic School of Via Massena, Sr. Gennarina was not only then, but always 'our Teacher'. A teacher of life because she was an example of a hard-working woman, simple and humble, generous, an example of a Sister who is a testimony of the good spirit of our Institute. She was happy, even though in her natural humility she used to say that she was not worthy, whenever I would embrace her perhaps after a long period of absence, calling her "my Teacher". Yes, how many things I have learned from her and how much gratitude I cherish in my heart for the little but valuable lessons learned regarding the practical things of everyday life".

And another one:

"Dear Teacher Gennarina,

Let me once again address you this way, because I believe that I am not mistaken and I think that all my Sisters will agree. You were to us, Aspirants a great woman; you passed in our midst almost on tiptoe; you knew how to live your Consecration in obedience, always ready to say your "Yes" whenever and wherever the voice of obedience called you. You lived in humility, in simplicity and in joy. We saw you always smiling until the end of your earthly life. Thank you for your beautiful example!"

In 1971, she was transferred to Viù – Kindergarten of Versino as Superior. The years spent in this Community brought to light her humanness for all those whom she met: the children of the School and their families, as well as the Sisters of the Community.

At the end of her six year-term, in 1977, she was sent to Moncalieri as Boarding Mistress.

A few years later, in 1979, Sr. Gennarina was transferred to Cigliano as Superior and Teacher in the Kindergarten; then, in 1984 to Carmagnola – San Grato with the same task and in 1998 again as Teacher and Superior of the Community in Bra. The will of God which she always sought, was for her the point of reference which kept her in a child-like abandonment to Love. Her humanness was expressed in joy that was transformed into deep charity towards those whom she encountered, showing much attention to each person whose need she met in his or her particular situation.

In the year 2000, she was again appointed Superior in Viù Colonia and in 2007, she taught in the Kindergarten of Altessano Barolo.

Transferred to Pianezza in 2009 and then to Turin - Casa Betania, where she spent the last years of her life, Sr. Gennarina was already suffering from serious cognitive difficulties. Medical examinations confirmed the presence of numerous cerebral strokes which had destroyed the cognitive cells, while the vital ones were still receptive, but even those were in a degenerative state. The loving care of the Sisters of the Community allowed her to live, understanding only the language of tenderness and kindness of the Sister-Nurses who took care of her lovingly.

Sr. Gennarina's condition worsened further due to the onset of pneumonia just a few days before her death. In silence and with a smile on her lips, Sr. Gennarina, returned to the Father's House at **5:05 a.m.** on **25 November 2015**.

On 26 November, in the Chapel of the Mother House, Don Antonio Amore presided over the Funeral Mass. At the beginning of the Holy Mass, Sr. Marieta, Superior of the Community, bid our dear Sister farewell with these words:

"Dear Sr. Gennarina,

Now you live forever; now you enjoy the Light that never sets and the merciful embrace of our Good Daddy who says to you: "Come, faithful servant, my friend, my bride!" We are all gathered here to raise up to the Lord, fountain of life and all goodness, our thanks for your final "Yes"; that "Yes" which you renewed every day of your earthly life. I have known you as an affectionate Sister, gentle and full of life.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to her relatives, particularly to her sister Pierina, her sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, because they were so caring and always close to Sr. Gennarina and to us. Surely, she is now closer than ever to all and from heaven, intercedes for everyone. We assure her relatives our closeness in affection and prayers so that the Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady, may grant them the grace of consolation".

At the celebration, the Sisters of the nearby Communities, her sister, nieces and nephews were present. After the Holy Mass her mortal remains were taken to the Monumental Cemetery of Turin where she now rests together with our Sisters who have preceded her.

Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life. Time is the most precious gift given to us by the Lord; time of the "oil" of good works that enlightens any situation and keeps us ready for the coming of the Lord, our Peace.

Let us continue to pray for Sr. Gennarina who will surely intercede for the needs of our Congregation. May the Lord receive her in His dwelling of peace and abundantly reward her fidelity and perseverance.

I greet you all with affection,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior