

SUORE DI SANT'ANNA

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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 8th October 2016

*"May the angels and the saints welcome you in heaven,
and lead you into the peace of God."*

Dearest Sisters,

With these words of the hymn of the liturgy for the dead, we want to address our dearest Sr. Giulia who on 29th September 2016 left us to be taken into the Eternal Embrace of the Father who opened for her the gates of Heaven to be with the angels and the saints. Death does not interrupt life but introduces us into a new, full and definitive dimension of existence.

Sister Giulia (Tanghetti Giulia) was born in Concesio (Brescia) on 19th October, 1934. She entered our Congregation, on 26th October, 1952 in Turin-Mother House, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

Vestition: on 10th August, 1953

First Profession: on 10th August, 1955

Final Profession: on 8th September 1961.

After her first Profession of Vows, in 1955, she was sent to Bra-Sant'Antonino as a teacher of the kindergarten: thus opened the way for her mission among children, whom she taught with simplicity and spontaneity, and she was immediately appreciated as the smiling Sister with eyes full of sweetness.

In 1958 she was sent to Cigliano-Asilo where she stayed only a year, to be transferred, in 1959, to Druento-Asilo. A few years later, in 1964, she was sent to Numana, where she stayed a few years before being transferred again in 1971 to Monticelli D'Ongina and the following year, in 1972, to Renens. Here she carried out her mission as assistant to the Boarders and as catechist in the nearby parish. The mission of Renens, with its poverty, was particularly dear to the heart of Sr. Giulia, who with great delicacy, took care of the children of the Foyer Sainte Famille, run by the Sisters with great dedication day and night.

In 1976 she was transferred to Chieri, again as a kindergarten teacher, and in 1980 obedience called her to Santena with the assignment as Superior, where she continued to teach in the nursery school and catechism in the parish.

When in 1991, after about twenty years, Sr. Giulia returned to Renens, she found again the same reality of poverty and indigence for which she spent her energies of mind and heart. Once again she was a mother to many children and to many mothers who were often unable to carry out their task; so, every day, she welcomed and consoled the children, still sleepy, or parents tired and worried after a long day at work. Her delicacy in dealing with others made Sr. Giulia a privileged listener, and in demand by so many.

After almost ten years, in 2000, she was sent to the small community of Laigneglia with the responsibility of Superior. After many years, she was sent for a few months to Vignale, before being transferred in 2010 to Turin-Casa Betania with the assignments as Sister-in-charge of the kitchen and bursar, where she tried to meet the needs of the Elderly Sisters. She was always smiling, cheerful and helpful, as Sr. Leonina recalls:

"Sr. Giulia was very human, always attentive to the Sisters and to all who approached her. She had the ability to listen to each and every one and her words were full of affection, she read beyond what was expressed in words. As Sister - in-charge of the kitchen, she was also attentive to the guests who at times arrived unexpectedly; all were welcomed and treated with warmth and respect. We, the Sisters of her Community got to know her generosity and enjoy her attentions."

Also Sr. Luisanna, her novitiate companion, remembers Sister Giulia as *"a courageous person, cheerful, generous and enterprising. I am very grateful to her because right from the Novitiate she had always helped me to overcome my tendency to be shy. Even after the Novitiate, inserted in several communities, we*

continued to meet, to share our experiences about our life in community and the apostolate, to assess ourselves and encourage each other."

In 2015 obedience called her to via Massena to serve as assistant of the Primary School children. This was her last community and despite having lived here less than a year, she was able to win, with her serenity and kindness, the affection of those who approached her. Thus writes the Coordinator of the Primary School, Francesco Barberis:

"Personally I received so much from Sister Giulia... we all have received very much. In just one year she left behind an indelible sign of goodness, of joy, of hope and positivity for all. She always had a kind word for the children and for us, adults."

She taught us that what matters in life is to live for Jesus; that life is worth living for great things, not for small things; yet for her the great things passed through the little things, those seemingly insignificant, a smile, a hug, a small reproach, an outstretched hand to cheer you up.

How can we not cry for our beloved Sister Giulia. Last night as I was thinking of her, these words came to my mind: "Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order to gain Christ and be found in him." (Phil 3:8-9).

Thus echoes Sr. Stefanina: *"I will not forget your peace of mind, your eloquent smile, your ever ready cheerful jokes. Above all you edified me with your love and with your loving assistance to those in need. You knew also how to ask and even beg, in order to have what you needed for your poor. From Heaven, help us too to be generous."*

In May 2016, the dear Sister was admitted into the Maria Pia Hospital in Turin for bioprosthetic aortic valve replacement. Discharged from the hospital she returned to the Casa Betania Community to convalesce, but after a short period of improvement, Sr. Giulia suffered a thrombo-embolic stroke and was hospitalized again.

Unfortunately her health condition gradually worsened and in the month of September, she was hospitalized urgently for a blood infection caused by a virus in the bioprosthetic valve.

After the treatment with antibiotics, it was found that surgery was the only alternative to save her, but Sr. Giulia, who was now strongly debilitated physically, ceased to live at 8:45 p.m..

The funeral was held on 3rd October in the chapel of the Mother House. Present were the Sisters of the two Communities of the Mother House, of nearby communities, the sister and a nephew of Sr. Giulia.

At the conclusion of the celebration Sr. Felicia bid her farewell thus:

Dear Sr. Giulia, you have taught us that our life is a call to participate in God's life forever: this is the victory of the struggle between good and evil. You were committed to live the radicalism of love, both among the little children of the Nursery School, as well as among the many adults whom you had the opportunity to approach, because of your capacity to communicate, and your kindness. During the last years of your life, you lived this friendliness and helpfulness among the Elderly Sisters of Casa Betania, serving them with love and generosity. In Via Massena you spent the last months of your apostolic life, and even here you immediately won the affection of the teachers and pupils with your kindness and serenity.

Now that you have reached the goal and have joined Mary, the angels and the saints in praising God for the great things He has done in the Church and in our Congregation, we ask that you remember your family, the Sisters of your Congregation, your friends, with all their needs, before the Heavenly Father.

After the Mass, as per the wish of her family, she was buried in the cemetery of her town where she now rests next to Sister Erminia.

Dearest Sisters, the angels, the cooperators in the design of salvation, were invoked at the liturgy. We rely on their help to progress in our earthly pilgrimage and arrive at the contemplation of the face of Christ.

Let us ask this today for dearest Sr. Giulia, offering generously our prayers of suffrage for her. The real good that one can do today, remains forever. With this, we enter everlasting life. This is the lesson that Sr. Giulia has left us and we want to remember her thus.

I greet you with affection,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior