

SUORE DI SANT'ANNA  
Provincia "Maria Consolata" IS  
Via della Consolata, 20  
Tel.: 011/234.22.30; Fax: 011/234.23.63  
E-mail: casamadre.to@tiscali.it  
10122 TORINO

The Provincial Superior

Turin, 5 August 2009

**"I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live".**

Jesus

Dearest Sisters,

Together with you, I would like to confirm our faith in these words of Jesus. The death of our dearest Sister Giuliva, due to respiratory insufficiency and pulmonary aedema, occurred at 2:55 a.m. on Sunday, 2 August, 2009, in the House of Pianezza, Turin, where our Sister had been staying for over a month after a long stay in the hospital.

She died serenely in the peace of the Lord, after having followed with filial love until the end, the "Ave Maria" prayed by the Sisters who were around her.

**SUOR GIULIVA (ALBERTI Fiore)**, born at Bagolino (BS) on 4 January 1924, was the eldest of eight children. From the age-old stock of the Albertis, and in particular from her father Antonio and her mother Giulia, she drew profound values which found help and reached their fulfilment in the Parish Community.

In this environment her "yes" to the consecrated vocation matured and was concretized in her choice to become a member of the Religious Family of the Sisters of St. Ann. Before her entrance into the Novitiate on 13 February 1948, the Parish Priest wrote in a letter to the Superior General: "*I accompany this other daughter of mine to your Institute. Fiore Alberti is also well animated and nurtures the hope of becoming a good and holy missionary with the grace of the Lord*".

In the Chapel of the Mother House in Turin, she celebrated successively the various phases of her Religious life:

- 10 August 1948: Vestition
- 10 August 1950: First Religious Profession
- 10 August 1956: Perpetual Vows.

Within this Family she lived the "mission", even though different from those of the other young people of Bagolino, who, having become Sisters, left for India. The apostolic work of Sr. Giuliva was carried out in a reality nearer home, but nonetheless, required commitment.

As a young Sister in 1950, she was sent, in fact, to the Community of Via Massena in Turin, where she remained a member until 1993. The Sisters dedicated themselves to the children and youth and each one had a particular "mandate" to give witness to the love of Jesus for each person.

Sister Giuliva took upon herself fully what was entrusted to her and in particular, from 1961 onwards, the service of welcoming everyone and assisting in the school. She saw many students pass by and she stayed with them for many hours a day. Encountering the brightness of her eyes and her smile made the heart feel good and encouraged one to live the daily events with confidence, above all when she asked them directly "Do you know that Jesus loves you?!"

She was prepared for "evangelization": in 1949 she received the certificate for catechetical teaching and during the years 1970-1974 she participated in a triennial course on religious culture. But, almost without wanting it, she let her interiorized evangelical wealth be manifested externally.

She always considered herself a "disciple". In her biographical form, under the heading "Course for Professional updating", she wrote "Listening to the Word of God".

Her "professionalism" sprung from this capacity to listen to Him and to others. She also liked to communicate and to find the right moment to say a nice word or to send a letter or a printed article to help spiritually without ever wanting to overwhelm or to invade the space of others.

In 1993 she was sent to the house of prayer at "San Grato" Carmagnola, Turin, where she remained for three years. Here, physical illness, which became her companion for the rest of her life, began to strike her. This was difficult to accept and no wonder that she lamented about it to the Lord and also to the Sisters, even in the awareness of the salvific value of suffering.

In 1996, her desire was fulfilled, *"to bring joy and comfort to those who seek help"* in the Nursing Home at Roé Volciano (Brescia). She celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Profession in this Parish Community and in thanksgiving for the feast she thus said, *"With intense prayer, with goodwill and with the help of the Lord, one always succeeds in overcoming everything. And like the rock-climber who seeks a stronghold in order to reach the much desired peak, I am clinging to the mercy of the Lord to succeed in fulfilling the Dream which I pondered in my heart: to render my service as a missionary in the school and now to the persons who are alone, old and in need of care and affection"*.

In 2001, with great suffering, she left this centre and returned to the Mother House, where she helped in the Community through the services which her strength allowed her to accomplish and through the testimony of her presence in the other common activities.

She prayed for all the persons she knew and her intentions were inspired by the Word of God: *"Lord of hosts come and visit this vine and protect the stump which your right hand has planted, the shoot which you have cultivated.... Lord, You, who through our Venerated Founders willed our Religious Family, protect it so that it may grow and bear fruit"*. Her missionary vocation was strengthened in prayer which she had entrusted with sensibility to the intercession of Mary, to whom her devotion was born in the Church of Bagolino, where the icon of Our Lady of St. Luke was venerated, and in front of which she loved to stay even during her visit to her family.

Here is a prayer which she herself wrote: *"Mary, hasten with the same attention which brought you to the house of Elizabeth in order to bring Jesus. Hasten to visit the Parish Communities to enrich them with holy vocations to the priestly, religious and family life that bring Jesus to all hearts and spread your kingdom in all souls"*.

Her health declined and it was necessary to admit her into the hospital. Last June 15, she was discharged, still very weak and suffering, so she was accompanied to the house of Pianezza, where it was hoped that the healthier air might have given her some relief.

A good number of her relatives who had come precisely to pray near dearest Sr. Giuliva and then to accompany her remains to her birthplace, participated in the Funeral Mass which was celebrated in the morning of 4 August in the Chapel of this Community.

In the majestic Parish Church of Bagolino, crowded with the faithful, the Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Parish priest, Fr. Arturo Viari. The "reality" that Sr. Giuliva had lived was present: the circle of family members reflecting the beauty of different generations, the priests, the parishioners, the Sisters from her Religious family and from other Congregations and in the communion of Saints, all the persons near and far whom she had loved.

The body of Sr. Giuliva was laid to rest in the Chapel of the cemetery, where it awaits the final resurrection. Let us pray for her as a sign of our fraternity and together with her, let us ask through the maternal intercession of Mary the graces the whole world needs most.

Faternally,

Sr. Noemi Scarambone