

Congregação das Irmãs de Santa Ana

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*"Through Him, with Him and in Him"* (Eucharistic Doxology)

Dearest Sisters,

The doxology of the Eucharistic prayer sums up very well the earthly journey of Sr. Ivana who, through her life spent at the service of the little ones and the poor, offered to the Trinity her highest act of love and of self-giving. In fact, at every Eucharistic celebration, Sr. Ivana consecrated herself to the Lord to be united with Him, and all that she did was in order to stay closer to Christ Incarnate and Crucified. She offered everything through Him and with Him for the good of the persons to whom she had dedicated herself. This characteristic trait of Sr. Ivana was well known to all who approached her. Sr. Ivana was a woman of prayer and had great devotion to the Eucharist. In every gesture of her mission she always had this in mind: *"that everything be done for Him, with Him and in Him."*

**Sr. Ivana** (Enrichetta Zottarel) was born in Treviso (Italy) on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1923 to Giovanni and Maddalena Zottarel. As a young girl she suffered the harsh consequences of war. This experience however, made her grow in faith and in the vocation to the Christian life, the journey of which she had already begun as a child through the Catholic Action Movement.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1946, at the age of 23, she entered our Congregation in Turin.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1947 – she made her Vestition

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1949 – she made her First Profession

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1955 – she consecrated herself forever to the Lord through the Perpetual Profession.

Immediately after her First Profession, she was sent to the Community of Acireale as a nurse and in-charge of the wardrobe of the boarders. She remained there for 19 years when, in 1968, she was transferred to Rome - Viale Marconi, again as nurse. In 1974 she was sent to the Community of Grosseto from where she left for Brazil in January 1979.

Sr. Ivana always distinguished herself for her gifts and a particular practical sense. She worked with love and generosity in the various services that were entrusted to her. She was a strong woman, ready for anything. She was prepared by God to further enrich the missionary presence of the Sisters of St. Ann in Brazil.

Sr. Ivana spent 38 years as a missionary in our country. She was sent to Presidente Prudente (SP), her first community, where she served in the Diocesan Seminary, helping in the kitchen and in the formation of the future priests. She also accompanied some young girls who wanted to get to know our Congregation.

In February 1981 she was transferred to the new community of Londrina (PR), and in January of the following year, 1982, to Barretos, (SP) where she began the service of the formation of the Aspirants, the future Brazilian sisters, who would give continuity to the mission of the Sisters of St. Ann in Brazil.

In January 1984 she was appointed Superior of the Community of Regente Feijo (SP), where she started a new mission: an arduous work in the crèche "Casa da Criança" through which she gave to the children all of her time and energy. The Sisters and the young girls who were part of her community felt welcomed and encouraged by her to overcome their limitations, with great trust in God who knows all, can do all and wants us to be His.

I remember her thus: *She always motivated us to pray and to remain united to the Lord who loves us and calls us to remain in Him. I had the grace to be accepted in the Aspirancy by Sr. Ivana, a strong woman with infinite tenderness and goodness without limits. She encouraged me to finish my higher studies and since I had been enrolled for evening classes, she would always fetch me from school so that I would not come home*

*alone. She was always ready to meet our needs; offered human and spiritual support with delicate care that was typical of her. Thank you Lord, for her living example in our midst.*

In January 1987, Sr. Ivana was transferred to the Community of Tamarana, in which, with God's grace and the help of many people, she developed the "Crèche São Roque" (Parish nursery school), which was about to be closed, giving continuity to its activities. Later, this same educational center was handed over to the Sisters of St. Ann, now known as the "Educational Center Vinde a Mim", the place where Sr. Ivana remained until her departure for the Father's House.

In the communities where she worked, she always put to good use her precious talents particularly as a nurse, bursar and educator of children and adolescents, and also of women to whom she taught tailoring and sewing, embroidery and cross-stitch, so that they might learn a profession and work in order to support their own families. Sr. Ivana was always involved in the promotion of life and the dignity of the person.

In January 2010 Sr. Ivana had a fall, perhaps caused by high blood pressure and age and although there was no fracture, it caused her much pain and weakened her. She stayed for a short time in the Community of Londrina to regain her strength, then returned to the Community of Tamarana, where the Sisters had renovated a room which could meet her needs in an easy and comfortable way. During the day she was assisted by a caregiver who helped her in her needs. At nights and weekends the Sisters of the community took turns in taking care of her, and did not leave her alone so that she could feel part of the community and the mission that was being carried out. Even though she could not go out of the house, she continued to cultivate a deep prayer life, also spending her time doing beautiful work in embroidery.

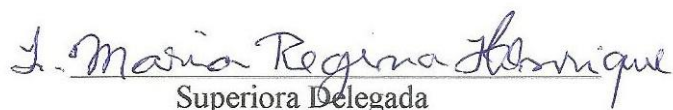
Gradually, due to her age, Sr. Ivana became weaker and the need to look after her became more urgent. She always lived with serenity, eating and sleeping well. On 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016 she fell from her bed and fractured her left arm. She was admitted for a few days in St. Francis' Hospital of Tamarana. According to the doctors it was necessary to have surgery, but due to her advanced age it was not possible, because she would not survive it. They advised us to take her home and continue the necessary treatment with painkillers so as to lessen her pain which was severe.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, around 3:00 in the afternoon, the Sisters noticed that she was not well. She refused to eat, to take medicines and had difficulty in breathing. So she was taken back to the hospital where she was admitted and was put on a ventilator. Sr. Ivana struggled till the end, as the condition of her health got further aggravated due to pneumonia. All the hospital staff knew her and nourished affection and gratitude towards her, so much so that they allowed the Sisters to stay by her side always. Despite all the care, on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 1.45 in the morning, Sr. Ivana serenely entered into her final Passover thus realizing what she repeated almost every night: "I think it's already time for me to go Home..."

Her mortal remains were kept in the Parish Church of Tamarana for the wake. Many people from near and far were present, joining us in these moments, with serenity and deep gratitude, although full of much sorrow. A place for her burial was already allotted in the cemetery of Tamarana, but the local authorities expressed their wish that Sr. Ivana be buried in the Chapel of the cemetery, stating that for Tamarana, Sr. Ivana had been like a mother and a benefactress, since each family of the place, in one way or the other, had benefited by her.

I thank the Sisters of the Community of Tamarana who with zeal and love took care of Sr. Ivana until her last breath, and I thank God for giving us such a witness of great faith, of abandonment and of love for the poor. May she from Heaven, united to our Good Daddy, intercede for us.

United in prayer,  
Yours affectionately,

  
Superiora Delegada