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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 30th January 2014

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps 26)*

Dearest Sisters,

On the day when, together with the Church, we were celebrating the Lord's Resurrection, our dearest Sr. Linda left us to enter radiantly into the Light of the Risen Christ. With the Psalmist, we had prayed: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation"*. On Sunday, 26th January, Sr. Linda reached Life without end and the Light which was fully revealed to her.

Sr. Linda (Piantoni Lucia) was born in Bagnolo Mella (BS) on 28th September 1921.

On 11th February 1952, she entered our Congregation at the Mother House in Turin, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

on 10th August 1952, her Vestition

on 10th August 1954, her First Profession and

on 10th August 1960 she consecrated herself to the Lord forever through the Perpetual Profession.

Sister Linda grew up in a large family (9 children) that was very much united, and where she learned the deep values of the Christian faith which she imbibed and which determined her choice of the consecrated life made later when she was much older.

In 1953, she was sent to Grazzano (AT), where she stayed for only a year, then was transferred to Muradolo di Caorso, in Piacentino, where she remained for 15 long years. Those who lived with her describe her as a simple Sister who was very human, active and concrete.

Enthusiasm in human relationships was her characteristic trait. Sr. Linda was always ready with a smile, open to jokes, an aspect of her temperament that enabled her to establish many relationships in her apostolate.

Over the years of her presence in Muradolo, from 1954 to 1969, not just as a cook only, Sr. Linda left a deep impression with her example of a life spent for the good of the people. She was always present at every Parish Community event, whether it be happy or sad.

In 1969 she was sent to Moncalieri as assistant in the kitchen and two years later, in 1971, she was transferred to the Ronco Kindergarten in Carmagnola as a cook.

A few years later, in 1974, obedience called her to Portacomaro where she lent her service as cook and assistant teacher in the Nursery School. Although the number of years spent in these last Communities was limited, Sr. Linda always distinguished herself for her generosity, readiness and attention towards the Sisters to whom she dedicated herself with great charity.

In 1975 she was transferred to Via Massena as the Sister-in-charge of the wardrobe, a service she rendered with dedication and love. The long years spent in this Community enriched the human and spiritual journey of our Sister with many beautiful experiences. In the house built by Mother Enrichetta, Sr. Linda felt at home and for her, it was like feeling the presence of the Blessed.

In 1985 she was sent to the Community of Moncalieri where she remained until 2011. In this Community, Sr. Linda made her presence felt through hard work. She was attentive to the needs of the Sisters and faithful in the observance of her duties. She loved order and cleanliness and in carrying out her service as Sister-in-charge of the wardrobe, how she rejoiced whenever she could respond well to the Sisters' needs.

In 2011 she became part of the Community of Casa Betania in Turin, where she spent the last years of her life, her body severely afflicted by a disease endured for many years. Although she could no longer carry out any activity, she kept alive her sharp wit, her ability to laugh at things and to take a joke made by the Sisters who went often to visit her, so much so that she did not lose her liveliness even when the clarity of her mind had diminished.

Despite her inner strength, her last few months were marked by a slow but more and more evident decline, such that to anyone who went to see her, she seemed like a candle burning out. What remained very much alive in her were only her eyes, made hollow by the sickness and often rimmed by severe pain which did not leave her.

Several times the Chaplain of the Mother House assisted her during her sickness, praying with her and for her when she would take a turn for the worse and seemed to leave us, but after each of those moments, she would recover, revive herself anew and would almost marvel at the concern shown by the Sisters around her; she would smile slyly while clutching the rosary in her hands... once again, as if nothing had happened.

So it was, month after month, day after day, until that Sunday, the 26th of January when, surrounded affectionately by the Sisters who were praying for her and to whom Sr. Linda united herself through her gaze and the movement of her lips, she returned to the Father's House at 5:50 a.m.

During the funeral Mass celebrated in the chapel of the Mother House by the Chaplain, Fr. Sergio Giordani and concelebrated by Fr. Martino Botero, so many of us were there around the coffin of Sr. Linda to pray for her: there were the Sisters of the Mother House, some Sisters from the nearby Communities; her nieces and nephews from Brescia who loved her very much and who visited her often.

At the beginning of the celebration, Sr. Franca Rita addressed Sr. Linda with touching words filled with deep affection:

"Dearest Sr. Linda, I want to bid you my last farewell, with love as always. It is not easy to speak at this moment and circumstance, but I will let my heart speak..."

You have always been a woman of prayer: I remember with deep emotion those long years spent together in Moncalieri, when I would find you already in Church praying at 5 in the morning and I used to offer you some coffee. You would reciprocate with a smile and a "thank you" which touched my heart... Even here, when we were still able to lift you out of bed, we would find you always with a prayer book in your hands or with the Rosary, praying for all, for the Church, for your dear ones whom you loved much and for us who were taking care of you.

You have been diligent, faithful, orderly and concrete in your work: you were really trained! The factory where you worked as a young lady prepared you for the sacrifice which religious life demands in order to live in communion with others: I never heard you say: "It is not my duty!" You were a humble person, silent, attentive to the needs of others, always willing to help those in need. How much concern you had towards the helpers; how many times you deprived yourself of something you had, in order to give it to them...

When the Superiors made the proposal to transfer you to Casa Betania, because your health had become very critical, you accepted it with gratitude; you gave me and all the Sister Nurses, the opportunity to assist you with tenderness and affection and this brought us joy. Obedience, in this case, is a beautiful and meaningful testimony.

I know that you will continue to pray for your dear ones, for the Church, for our Religious family... Thank you, Sr. Linda for your simple and meaningful gestures...."

Before the end of the Celebration, Fr. Martino Botero, a Colombian priest, who had met Sr. Linda way back in 2003, said a few words. He described her as a special person who had helped him to live serenely the detachment from his family when he was incardinated in the Diocese of Turin.

Father Martino emphasized Sr. Linda's generosity recalling particularly the help she offered to his brother Lucio, to support a small Association in favour of the poor children in his country.

At the end of the funeral Mass the mortal remains of Sr. Linda were accompanied to the Cemetery of Turin, where she now rests together with many of our Sisters awaiting the resurrection.

Dearest Sisters, the life of Sr. Linda was a gift given to the Communities and to the Church which she served and to the persons who had known her. Existence has meaning only as the fulfilment of a Project: Sr. Linda committed herself to this. Let us continue to pray for her, while we ask her to intercede for us before the Father.

I greet you all with love,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior