

**Suore di Sant'Anna**

**Provincia "Carlo Tancredi e Giulia di Barolo"**

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**10122 TORINO**

*The Provincial Superior*

Turin, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

*And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun,  
for the Lord God will be their light,  
and they will reign forever and ever (Rev. 22: 5).*

Dearest Sisters,

Earthly life is a passage towards the Eternal Light, "*the true light, which enlightens everyone*" (Jn 1:9) and which illumined the face of dearest Sr. Luisa on Christmas Day, the day on which she passed from earth to heaven in silence, in the final offering of her whole self to the Lord, to whom she had consecrated her life, as a bride ready to go and meet her Heavenly Bridegroom.

**Sr. Luisa** (Carla Delfina Galleana) was born in Coazze (Turin) on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1930.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 1950 she entered our Congregation in Turin – Mother House, where she celebrated the stages of her formative journey:

on August 10, 1950 she made her Vestition

on August 10, 1952 she made her First Profession

on August 10, 1958 she consecrated herself forever to the Lord  
through the Perpetual Profession.

After having completed her Secondary School from the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Sr. Luisa entered the Apostolic School of the Sisters of St. Ann in Via Massena, where she stayed for four years under the direction of Sr. Clelia Berrone, until she obtained her Teachers' Training Diploma on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1949.

After her First Profession, she remained in the Mother House where she began her teaching mission in the Elementary School. The following year, in 1953, she was transferred to Turin-Via Massena, with the same role and with the task of Boarding Mistress. In 1955 she continued her mission as a teacher in the Mother House.

An exigent and at the same time understanding educator, through her teaching Sr. Luisa lavished her gifts of mind and heart on her students, making herself loved by them and their families.

Always available to welcome and live the will of God through the mediation of her Superiors, the dear Sister in September 1966 accepted the charge of Assistant Secretary in the General Secretariat which was still based in Turin-Mother House, although already since 1961 she was offering her precious collaboration there.

In 1967, when the Superior General, her Council and the General Secretariat shifted to Rome-Viale Marconi, Sr. Luisa was also transferred and continued her service beside the careful guidance of the then General Secretary Sr. Clelia Berrone.

In 1972, at the conclusion of the General Chapter celebrated in August of the same year in the Generalate, with the election of Mother Clelia Berrone as Superior General, Sr. Luisa was appointed General Secretary. This service demanded of her fidelity, prudence, precision, sacrifice and patience without measure, as Sr. Noemi recalls: *in the journey of life the Father providentially puts you beside persons who are points of reference. Dearest Sister Luisa was one such person for me.*

*I began to get to know her more closely during the time I spent in the Community of the Generalate when she was General Secretary. Her day, from morning to evening, and sometimes even at night, was fully dedicated to the service of our religious family, which she loved as a "loving mother". She felt a living part of it because she was aware of being, like each one of us, an "administrator" of a Charism gifted to the Church for the world. She collaborated, therefore, with the meticulousness and the precision that distinguished her work, in the preparation of major events such as the General Chapters, the beatification of Mother Enrichetta, the revision of the Constitutions, the opening of the Missions... She worked very hard "behind the scenes" without pretending to appear or seek recognition. She gave the same attention to the performance of ordinary work. She was discreet and disclosed nothing concerning her service as General Secretary as well as what was confided to her by the Sisters or by the people who approached her for advice, encouragement, or simply to entrust her with what they had at heart. It was known that Sr. Luisa "was there" at any time and not only physically, but also through her attentiveness and availability. I continue to feel her close by because she, like other Sisters, knew how to accept me as I am. Thank you, Sr. Luisa, for being a presence in my life.*

In the summer of 1991, Sr. Luisa returned to Turin - Mother House and lent her help in the Provincial Secretariat until 1993, when she assumed the mandate of Provincial Secretary with the same sense of responsibility, availability and serene dedication to her service, as she had already demonstrated during the long years of service in the Secretariat of the Generalate.

In August 2001, the new Community "Casa Sant'Anna" in Turin-Via Massena began to accept young university students, teachers and working women. On that occasion obedience called Sr. Luisa once again to her beloved Via Massena, where she remained until her death. Those were the years of her precious and discreet presence among the girls. Together with Sr. Dorothy and Mother Clelia, then Superior, she took care of their spiritual formation, also arranging for encounters guided by trained priests.

In 2007 Sr. Luisa accepted one more act of obedience, with trusting abandonment in God: she was appointed Superior of the small Community for a three-year term. Sr. Luisa felt the responsibility still more of having to be a presence and a little light for each of the young girls who considered her as an undisputed reference point. At any time they went, for any problem, for any request, they were certain that Sr. Luisa was there waiting for them, in that little study room, which was transformed into a room for colloquies when she listened to them, or into a recreation room when the girls went there to chat in the evening, knowing they would not be alone but that they would have beside them a discreet and silent presence. Sr. Luisa was there, simply, but with the attention, the love, the care, the delicacy that every mother has when she is called to take charge of the life of another. And this made her attentive to details, to the little things that surrounded the life of the girls: good must be done well! And so the rooms, the gadgets put at their disposal, the organization, everything had to give the young girls the certainty that they were not alone, that they could feel at home, that they were surrounded by friendly presences. And they felt them, so much so that their going away was a goodbye but always "till we meet again": after feast days, or when it was possible, the young girls returned to Casa Sant'Anna, tasting the joy of being always welcomed and always remembered.

In this quiet flow of daily life, Sr. Luisa taught us the value and fruitfulness of "*that heroism of fidelity*" of which our Blessed Enrichetta is our teacher and model.

Thus, although Sr. Luisa was suffering from heart ailments and had to pay attention to some aspects of her health, there was nothing that could foresee such an imminent end, when on December 24<sup>th</sup> evening she was seized by fever: it was put down to fatigue, or to normal flu; in fact, on Christmas Day she showed some improvement. She had lunch in her room and expressed the desire to rest a little. However, immediately afterwards, she said that she was not feeling well and from that moment the situation got increasingly worse, so much so that the Sisters called for an ambulance and immediately after for the doctor, noticing the deterioration of the situation. While waiting for assistance, Sr. Luisa had Mother Clelia and Sr. Dorothy beside her, who tried to reassure her, though understanding the gravity of the situation. Shortly after, in the arms of the Sisters who were trying to support her, Sr. Luisa, silently, at 3.40 p.m., ceased to live.

The funeral was celebrated on 28<sup>th</sup> December in the Chapel of Via Massena in the presence of the Sisters of her Community, the Community of the Mother House and other Sisters of the neighbouring Communities. Also present were Sr. Luisa's relatives, some girls of "Casa Sant'Anna" and many people who were known to the dear Sister. Sr. Marcia Lobo, General Secretary, was also present and she addressed

Sr. Luisa on behalf of Mother Francesca and also personally. At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, Mother Franceschina, on behalf of Beppe, a dear friend of Sr. Luisa read out his last farewell:

*You are returning home, dearest Luisa, smiling, with your usual grace. We greet you on the threshold, with respect, with discretion - we know that the affection you nourished for us does not end here - without clamour, without noise, you are preparing a place for us, you went before us and sustain us with your presence. We embrace you tightly and we repeat our thanks to you for your precious presence in our life.*

After the Mass, her body was buried in the cemetery of Coazze, her birthplace, where she now rests next to her sister.

Dearest Sisters, now Sr. Luisa in heaven sings the Magnificat of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of life and of religious consecration.

We turn to her so that from heaven she may continue to protect her beloved Casa Sant'Anna, console her Sisters, especially Mother Clelia and Sr. Dorothy who lived with her for many years and who now feel the pain of detachment. As we continue to offer our prayers of suffrage for her, we ask her to watch over our Congregation and to intercede with the Lord so that He may obtain for us the true spirit of our Institute.

I greet you all fraternally,

  
Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior