

Suore di Sant'Anna

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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 5th April 2016

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory". (Phil. 3: 20).

Dearest Sisters,

The Easter Season which we are celebrating reminds us that every "passing over" means passion and every "crossing" means suffering. It had been so for Christ and it has been so for Sr. Mansueta who, precisely during this time of the Resurrection, has crossed the threshold of mortal life. The Paschal Mystery illumined the last days of our dear Sister, whom the Lord called to Himself after a long and laborious life.

Sister Mansueta (Giordanella Giorgia) was born in Rosolini (Syracuse) on 25th April 1924.

On 8th September 1947, she entered our Congregation in Rome – Viale Marconi, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

on 15th September 1948 she made her Vestition

on 15th September 1950 she took her First Vows

on 10th August 1956 she consecrated herself forever to the Lord through the

Perpetual Profession held in Turin – Mother House.

Born into a deeply Christian family, she received a good religious formation, by learning sacrifice, fidelity and constancy from her parents, which were practiced at home and in the Parish. Having a strong temperament and a well structured personality, she opened herself to life and her religious vocation blossomed in our Congregation, inspired and fascinated by the example of her two sisters, Sr. Teotiste and Sr. Amata.

In 1950, obedience called her to Vasciano to assist in the Kindergarten, an environment in which Sr. Mansueta learned how to combine the service of Martha carried out with the heart of Mary, manifesting a spirit of sacrifice, a firm and decisive will, as well as a subtle irony that always characterized her.

In 1959, she was sent to Vignale with the same task. Behind her joviality and humour, she concealed a solid and firm spirituality which, in time, she learned to nurture through encounters, deepening of the Word and reading.

In 1969, she was transferred to Carmagnola - Asilo Ronco as cook and in 1971, with the same task, to Rosolini, where she remained for a good 35 years.

This last phase of her life was very significant, especially because of the experience she shared with the journey of a Neocatecumenal group; an experience which Sr. Mansueta defined as *my apostolate*. During the meetings, many persons used to approach her, to tell her their stories, ask her for prayers and receive from her a smile and encouragement, together with the assurance of prayer. She knew how to attract with an enthusiasm and joy that was contagious and which had become testimony of a life lived to the full although seemingly humble and ordinary.

In 2005, after the suppression of the Community of Rosolini, she was welcomed to Rome - Stella Maris. Thus, Sr. Amata recalls the years spent by Sr. Mansueta in this Community:

“In August 2005, after a long stay in her native land, Sr. Mansueta, from the Community of Rosolini, was transferred to the Community of Stella Maris. Because of that, she radically changed her life style: from a fully active, dynamic daily life, which drained all her energy, she passed on to a life that was static.... Her only interest was prayer and reading the Word of God, but she was always calm and quiet. She was in God’s will; she loved the Lord and this was enough for her. She did not feel the lack of friends and acquaintances, and she had so many of them in Rosolini! She was always cheerful, loquacious, joyful in her heart - that joy which only God can give. Over the years, Sr. Mansueta began to decline, to be less and less self-sufficient. She loved the Neocatecumenal community and was grateful to it because through its catechesis she had been helped to discover God’s love and His Word by which she was transformed. God’s love led her towards others, without ever thinking of her own self. Nothing could stop her: not even tiredness, nor ill health, nor external difficulties; she understood that “saying” and “doing” were the same realities and that the Word of God is to be concretized in daily life, lived with one’s whole self.”

Recently, the health of Sr. Mansueta deteriorated further. Constrained to a prolonged hospitalization due to blood infection and renal failure, she continued to maintain her calmness and serenity even when she was discharged.

During the Holy Week, her agony began, and on Holy Saturday evening, at the start of the Easter Vigil, during the solemn Service of Light, the Sisters, in procession, made the first stop in front of Sr. Mansueta’s room. The first brilliant light of the Paschal Candle illuminated one of the most delicate moments of her life: her agony, the difficult and bitter struggle between life and death, a dark and uncertain step, but necessary in order to fulfill our “passing over”. Her Community which loved and assisted her lovingly till her last breath, invoked the light of Christ using the words of the liturgy.

It can be said that the long agony of our dear Sister was a calm and tranquil sleep. Thus, on the evening of **30th March 2016**, at **7:50 p.m.**, Sr. Mansueta left us to reach our heavenly home.

At the Funeral Mass celebrated in the Chapel of Stella Maris, present were the Superior General, the Sisters of the General Council and the Generalate and those of the two Communities of Viale Marconi. After the Holy Mass, her body was taken to Rosolini where she now rests next to her loved ones. At the end of the Holy Mass, the Superior of the Community, Sr. Consuelita, addressed Sr. Mansueta with these words:

*“Dearest Sr. Mansueta, we gather around you to express our thanks for the serenity which characterized the entire period of your illness: truly you have been Mansueta (Meek) in name and in deed! You were always grateful to the nurses who, with so much love, cared for you with dedication. Now that you are in the Father’s Home, pray for us and for the Congregation and ask our Good Daddy to grant us the gift of good and holy vocations.
Thank you, Sr. Mansueta!*

Dearest Sisters, the light of the candle which on that Easter Night was invoked on the last days of the earthly life of Sr. Mansueta, today is a full and lasting light in the heavenly Jerusalem where neither night, nor darkness, nor suffering have the right to exist. When Sr. Mansueta knocks on His door, our Good Daddy will welcome her with hands full of love. Let us continue to live this Easter Season with our eyes and hearts turned towards the things that are above, while we remain close to Sr. Teotiste and Sr. Amata through our prayers.

I greet you all with affection,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior