

SUORE DI SANT'ANNA  
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La Superiora Provinciale

Turin, 9 March 2012

*"Your face, Lord, do I seek.  
Do not hide Your face from me". (Ps 27:8-9)*

Dearest Sisters,

While we were celebrating the Transfiguration of the Lord in the liturgy, saddened by the passing away of dear Sr. Marina, Sister Death visited us again, taking with her our dear Sr. Maria Grazia. Contemplating the transfigured Face of Jesus on Mount Tabor, the disciples learnt to recognize Him in the suffering of His passion. Now, Sr. Maria Grazia along with our other Sisters, contemplates His Face of light.

**Sr. Maria Grazia** (Pierina Ferretti), was born in Turin on 9 March 1923.

She entered our Congregation, in Turin, on 28 December 1953. In the Chapel of the Mother House she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

She made her Vestition on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1954,

her First Vows on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1956,

and on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1962, she consecrated herself forever to the Lord through her Perpetual Profession.

Sr. Maria Grazia was an only child, and had to look after her parents before fulfilling her desire to answer the call of Jesus to the Consecrated Life.

At the age of 30, when her father and mother had already reached their heavenly abode, she entered our Congregation to give herself to God. Quite soon, at a young age she encountered the path of suffering and the cross, along which she journeyed together with Christ, till the end of her life.

Newly professed, in 1956, she was transferred to Bagnoregio as Assistant Mistress of the orphans and the following year, was sent to Turin-Mother House, where she was a member who was hardworking, silent and reserved, yet attentive to every little thing and to every person.

In 1978, for health reasons, she was transferred to Vignale, and after recovering, she remained in the same Community, ready to offer her help with simplicity and great generosity, wherever there was need.

In 1986 she was sent to Narzole, where she continued to be a silent and active presence.

In May 2000, she was transferred to Pianezza and in November 2010, together with the whole Community, to the Mother House. Here, Sr. Maria Grazia felt at "home", closer to the Founders and Blessed Enrichetta.

The Sisters who knew her and had shared community life with her, remember her as a good seamstress, very precise in stitching the habits of the Sisters. She was kind, caring, gentle, ready to apologize for any little oversight, just as she was quick in saying "thank you" for every manifestation of affection, and for all that she received. She knew how to give her help promptly, with simplicity, where it was needed.

During this last period, Sr. Maria Grazia was rushed to the Cottolengo Hospital due to serious pulmonary problems, resulting in oedema, and was admitted precisely into the same ward as Sr. Marina, separated only by a short corridor, but united in suffering that purified her and certainly prepared her for her encounter with the Bridegroom.

While in hospital, her health condition deteriorated further because of total respiratory and cardio-circulatory failure, for which it was necessary to assist her continuously and accompany her in her suffering. On the last day of her life, she suffered greatly, with very high fever and together with the many Sisters, who came also to visit Sr. Marina, we took turns at Sr. Maria Grazia's bedside, praying that the Lord would free her, giving her comfort and consolation. While the fever "was devouring" her body, on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> March** at dawn, about 15 hours after the death of Sr. Marina, Sr. Maria Grazia too breathed her last.

She was placed next to Sr. Marina in the mortuary of the hospital and on Monday afternoon was shifted to the Chapel of our Mother House-Turin, where her funeral took place.

At the Eucharistic celebration were present the Sisters of the two Communities of the Mother House, some Sisters from the neighbouring Communities and the cousins of the dear departed Sister.

Her body was then buried, along with that of Sr. Marina in the Monumental Cemetery of Turin, on the morning of Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Dearest Sr. Maria Grazia, thank you for your example of humility and goodness. From Heaven, continue to look upon us with kindness and intercede for our Congregation and for the many needs of the Province.

I greet you all with fraternal affection.

  
Mother Franceschina Milanesio, Provincial Superior