

## **Sisters of St. Ann**

*Province "Carlo Tancredi and Giulia di Barolo"*

Via della Consolata, 20

Tel.: 011/234.22.30 - Fax: 011/234.23.37

E-mail: casamadre.to@libero.it

**10122 TORINO**

*La Superiora Provinciale*

Turin, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

*"Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life  
in this world will keep it for eternal life.  
Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am,  
there will my servant be also." (Jn 12: 24)*

Dearest Sisters,

The liturgical memorial of St. Polycarp which we were celebrating the day the Lord called to Himself Sr. Maurina, reminds us that *"before God one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day."* St. Polycarp is remembered as the good shepherd with unshakable faith, the athlete who, though eighty-six years of age, witnessed up to martyrdom his faith in Christ. During her long life, Sr. Maurina too testified her fidelity to Christ and now that her earthly life has reached completion, she can experience the infinite joy that transcends all pain and suffering as experienced by human beings.

**Sister Maurina** (Margherita Ricca) was born at Fossano (CN) on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1922.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 1943 she entered our Congregation, in Turin - Mother House, where she celebrated the stages of her formative journey:

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1944 – she made her Vestition at Pollone (BI)

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1946 - she made her First Profession

on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1952 – she consecrated herself forever to the Lord through the Perpetual Profession.

Sr. Maurina was the eldest of four children and the only daughter. At the age of 10 she lost her father, and her mother entrusted her to the Sisters of St. Ann in the Boarding School of Fossano, while she continued to manage the family with courage and great determination. The faith which her family had nurtured in Sr. Maurina gradually grew through her contact with the Sisters of Saint Ann, thanks to whom she discovered her vocation to the consecrated life. So at the age of 21, she entered our Institute to fulfill her dream of the total offering of herself to the Lord.

A few days after her First Vows in September 1946, she was entrusted with the task of Boarding Mistress in Turin - Mother House. As an attentive and caring educator, she took care of the girls in their daily tasks by helping them to distinguish the time of study from that of recreation, making them understand the true value of both. Sr. Maurina was a cheerful nun, lively and with good spirit, and her Noviciate companions recall with admiration her humorous jokes.

In 1947 she was assigned to the Community of Augusta as Boarding Mistress; in 1953 she was transferred to Bagnoregio and the following year, in 1954, to Turin - Via Massena where she still continued her task as Boarding Mistress.

In 1955, obedience called her again to Turin - Mother House as Assistant of the Boarders, where she stayed for about ten years before being transferred to Turin - Via Massena in 1965, and in 1974 to Moncalieri - with the same assignment as Assistant of the Boarders. This, then was her main field of apostolate: being at the service of the young people whom the Lord entrusted to her.

In 1976 she was transferred to Carmagnola Immaculate with the responsibility of Superior for six years, and she remained in this Community until 1995, the year in which obedience called her to Leini, once again with the task of Superior.

In 1998 she was sent to Moncalieri to assist the girls and to give help wherever her presence was needed, and she was always appreciated for her kindness and generosity.

Sr. Maurina was an exemplary Sister not only when she was still in active life, but also when she started to lose her memory; always serene, with a smile on her lips, and she knew to say thanks for every little gesture, and to those who approached her to ask how she was, she always replied that she was fine; everything was fine, everything was good.

In 2003, being in need of assistance because of serious memory problems, she was welcomed into the Community of Pianezza, where she lived with the same serenity and the same smile, so much so that, when she was jokingly asked how she would reply if the Lord had to call her, she responded that she wanted to stay a bit longer on earth, because she felt good with her Sisters; this statement being precisely of one who knew how to enjoy and live community life well.

Thus, from 2003 until a few weeks ago, Sr. Maurina did not manifest any particularly serious illnesses. Her body declined slowly, but smoothly, serenely, until the events of recent weeks when she caught pneumonia which, despite the treatment with antibiotics, aggravated her precarious situation. Nonetheless, Sr. Maurina never manifested any signs of particular suffering to the Sisters Nurses who were taking care of her. Her body, weakened by long years of infirmity, was wearing out little by little, slowly, until 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 11.35, when our dear Sister breathed her last in the presence of her niece who had rushed to her bedside and the Sisters of the Community who were in prayer around her.

The funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr Roberto Raccagni, OFM in the Chapel of the Mother House, and besides the Sisters of the Communities, her nieces and nephews and sister-in-law from Fossano were also present.

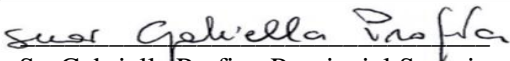
At the beginning of the Eucharistic Celebration, the Superior, Sr. Marieta, in her farewell address recalled the goodness of Sr. Maurina and her ability to touch the hearts of the young people whom she approached: *“All experienced your maternal goodness and felt loved. Not very long ago your Boarders of 50 years ago visited you: they recalled the serene laughter and beautiful relationship that had been created between you and them through your tireless and loving presence. You were always with them, and they found in you a friend, a mother able to care for them to the end, at any cost”*.

And gratitude arose spontaneously: *“THANK YOU Sr. Maurina, because even in inactivity you did not lose your sweet smile, the serene look, the funny expression that brought a smile to those who approached you”*, as recalled by Sr. Francarita at the end of the Eucharistic celebration: *“Dearest Sr. Maurina, your continuous ‘Anduma’ (Let us go) has arrived and you are in God’s peace. I lived with you in Moncalieri during the years of Boarding School and you, perhaps unknowingly, were a teacher to me. I have never forgotten your ability to smile, to joke with the girls entrusted to you. You did not leave them alone, but during the study hours, you were very demanding, serious and determined. Then came the time of silence for you, how long was your inactivity, your illness!... Thank you for the example you’ve given us. Now pray for us so that we may live in joy and fidelity all that the Lord has disposed and disposes for us”*.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, her coffin was accompanied by some of the Sisters to the cemetery of Fossano where she now rests in the family tomb.

Dearest Sisters, we thank God our Good Daddy for the gift of Sisters like Sr. Maurina. Today, we say thanks also to her and we entrust her into the arms of the Lord of Life so that He may help us to grow in love, as Sr. Maurina did. Beginning this Season of Lent, a favorable time for intensifying our spiritual life, we hope that it will be full of acts of mercy. May the practice of fasting help us to gain mastery over ourselves, and prayer be for us the means to feel the loving presence of God.

I greet you all with affection,

  
Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior