

Suore di Sant'Anna

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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 18 January 2016

*"For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light." (Ps 36: 9)*

Dearest Sisters,

The earthly journey of our dear Sr. Robertina came to an end in the Fatebenefratelli Hospital in Rome at 2:00 a.m. on 12 January 2016. We would like to think that she is now with Christ, whom she sought and served for many years. When God chooses a person for Himself, He always does so in order that the person may become a gift for others, a collaborator of that life in abundance, which He wants to give us. God's love, which Sr. Robertina proclaimed with words and bore witness to, now introduces her into the wedding feast of His Kingdom.

Sister Robertina (Santini Angiolina) was born in Castiglione della Pescaia (Grosseto) on 1 October 1923.

On 8 January 1950, she entered our Congregation in Turin, Mother House, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

on 10 August 1950 she made her Vestition

on 10 August 1952 she made her first Vows

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

After her studies, having obtained her Teacher's Diploma for teaching in the Kindergarten, in September of 1971, obedience sent Sr. Robertina to the Orphanage in Bagnoregio where she assisted the orphans and taught in the Kindergarten. How much love and dedication she showered upon those less fortunate children, often deprived of a family! They, "her" children, as she used to call them, were always first in her thoughts, the motive of her efforts but also of her satisfaction. She followed them up step by step in their studies, games, during meals; they also kept her busy during week-ends, planning outings or activities that pleased them. These days filled with emotions, lived in simplicity through gestures of tenderness and attention, made them rediscover the beauty of life, despite the difficult situations they bore within them. The children filled her days with their smiles, questions, stories and small day to day gestures which at times could go unnoticed, but which in reality revealed the tenderness which they nourished towards the one who took care of them with much love.

In 1980, Sr. Robertina was transferred to the Community of Ribolla as Superior and as a teacher in the Kindergarten.

The Sisters who have lived with her remember her as a person ready to utter her yes with willingness and always with a smile on her lips. Yes, this was exactly what characterized her: the smile which she gave to everyone with a heart full of joy and without reserve.

Sr. Nelly remembers her as *a strong woman, decisive but respectful and serene, and so she was respected and loved. She made Community life jovial, at times cheerful, and relationships with outsiders cordial. A person who has left a mark as one consecrated to the Lord and dedicated to her neighbour in her mission as educator of the new generations. This temperament of hers, open and free, together with a strong will power, was of great help to her in facing the last years of her life.*

In 1986, Sr. Robertina was transferred to Narni Stazione as Superior and after a few years, in 1989, to Sirolo as Superior and teacher in the Kindergarten, where she continued to be lively, creative and welcoming to the parents. She knew well how to get them involved in the organization of feasts, which became joyful manifestations for the Parish and the town.

In 1997 she returned to the Community of Ribolla as Superior, and in 2002 she concluded the second term of her mandate in the Community of Rome Stella Maris, where she carried out her service only for a year.

The following year, 2003 she was transferred to Grosseto where she lent her service as Portress. Her presence in this Community marked another beautiful stage of her journey in her beloved Maremma. Here too, Sr. Robertina brought her vivacity and interior strength: her love for the Community led her to offer with simplicity her contribution both in the spiritual sharing and during moments of recreation. Whenever misunderstandings occurred, she wouldn't bear any rancour but was ready to apologize and everything went back as before.

She was always joyful and during the hours spent as Portress, she used to receive with much affection the children who were waiting for their parents, telling them some stories or singing some songs. Even though she was no longer teaching, she never felt excluded from the educative mission and therefore, she used to be present at the various events which the school organized.

The people of Maremma grieve much for her and would have desired that her mortal remains be brought to Grosseto where Sr. Robertina was considered an "institution" and a point of reference for many families who always received a word of encouragement and comfort from her.

In the month of September 2015, because of health problems which had become more and more serious, our dear Sister was transferred to Rome, to the Community of Stella Maris and on 27 December, due to severe abdominal pain, she was admitted into the hospital where, having confirmed the seriousness of her condition, she underwent immediate surgery for a perforated appendix. The postoperative period, at first, gave us hope of a recovery, but after a few days, her condition took a turn for the worse due to the onset of renal failure which caused her death.

Sr. Robertina left this earth on tiptoe to be reunited with Christ, the Lord of life. At the funeral Mass celebrated in the Chapel of Stella Maris, besides her grand nieces and nephews, present were the Sisters of the Generalate and the General Council, the Provincial Superior and the Sisters of Rome and of her beloved Community of Grosseto. After the Holy Mass, her mortal remains were taken to the Prima Porta Cemetery where she now rests next to our other Sisters.

Dear Sr. Robertina, while you were in the hospital, almost like a premonition, you still managed to joke: "*it's my turn to die and I'm not used to it...*". Now you'll get used to it with the angels in heaven! Your joyful, generous and simple life, offered to the Lord, will be your merits in front of Divine Mercy.

Dearest Sisters, let us thank God, our Good Father, for the gift of life given to our dear Sr. Robertina. Surely, she went through a long journey of faith within the ordinariness of everyday life, always guided and sustained by the Lord. Let us not leave her wanting for our prayers of suffrage while we entrust to her, who loved much the children, our children and their families. May the thought of having a Sister who smiles and prays for us in heaven, comfort us.

Let us entrust to her the needs of Mother Francesca and Sr. Jacintha who are visiting the Northern Province of India.

I greet all of you with affection,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior