

SUORE DI SANT'ANNA
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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 01 March 2015

*This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life;
and I will raise them up on the last day. (Jn 6:40)*

Dearest Sisters,

On the eve of Blessed Mother Enrichetta's Feast Day, our dearest **Sr. Rosamaria** left us to celebrate in heaven the fullness of Life that has no end. In the course of her earthly life, she lived every moment in prayer, in self-giving, in trustful abandonment to God, in which our Blessed Mother is our teacher. Now she lives in the Peace of Him who is the Fullness of life.

Sister Rosamaria (Rossignoli, Virginia) was born in Frassinello Olivola, in Monferrato, (Alessandria) on 11 November 1924.

On 21 January 1943, she entered our Congregation in Turin – Mother House, where she celebrated the various events of her formative journey:

on 10 August 1943 she made her Vestition in Carmagnola

on 10 August 1945 she made her First Vows

on 10 August 1951 she consecrated herself forever to the Lord through the

Perpetual Profession.

After her First Profession, in 1945 she was sent as an Elementary School Teacher to Cocconato (Asti), a small town on a hill top, from the Latin words "cum conatu", reflecting the effort it took to reach there, in a time without cars, climbing slowly up the winding hilly roads riding a horse. It was here that Sr. Rosamaria began her first apostolate, experiencing right away that in order to follow the Lord, one must walk the narrow way of the Gospel.

In 1946, she was sent, again as a Teacher, to Grosseto where she remained for several years. But her longest teaching experience was in Bra - MendicITÀ, where she was sent in 1954, in which she worked as a public school teacher for 15 long years, until she was transferred to the nearby house in Bra - Sant'Antonino in 1979 and in which she stayed for only a year.

In 1980 she was sent to Turin - Via Massena until 1992, the year in which she was transferred to Viù Colonia. A few years later, in 1994, she became part of the Community of the Mother House in Turin.

Sister Rosamaria dedicated all her life to teaching, giving herself to her students, manifesting particular attention and availability towards the children who were weaker. The professionalism and great humanness with which she had always carried out her work, combined with the loving attention with which she followed up each one of her pupils, were the characteristics that distinguished her work.

After a long experience in the school, in 2004 Sr. Rosamaria became part of the Community of Pianezza because of her physical and mental health that was very precarious. When two years later, an accidental fall caused her a serious head injury, the consequences were unfortunately irreversible, resulting in a progressive deterioration of all her motor and intellectual faculties.

From that time, through ups and downs, Sr. Rosamaria's life was totally entrusted to the loving care of the doctors and our Sister Nurses who took care of her with priceless dedication day and night.

Through those long years, the Sisters who were close to her gave witness to her capacity to suffer in silence, without ever lamenting, as recalled by Sr. Francarita's farewell address to her on the day of her funeral.

After many years of illness, the condition of Sr. Rosamaria began to deteriorate further, as to foreshadow the end, just a few days before her death. In silence, Sr. Rosamaria returned to the Father's house on **20 February** at 9:40 a.m., surrounded by the affection of the Sisters who were praying for her and who on several occasions, in the days before her death, had gone to her bedside to greet her and to pray for her.

The mystery of suffering to which the Lord willed to associate our dearest Sister for such a long time, is not meaningless: having lived with her has been a great and precious gift which saves us from our "forgetfulness" and invites us to look, with heart and mind, beyond incomprehensible appearances, to contemplate more deeply the mystery of Christ to which all of us are called.

The funeral Mass was held on 23 February in the Chapel of the Mother House. At the celebration, the Sisters of the nearby Communities were present to manifest their love and gratitude to Sr. Rosamaria, who has left an indelible mark of her presence, example and closeness to the life of many persons. After the Holy Mass her mortal remains were transported to Frassinello, her birthplace.

During the Mass Sr. Franca Rita, Superior of Betania Community, addressed to Sr. Rosamaria the following message:

Dearest Sr. Rosamaria,

We have known each other for many years, I met you when you were teaching in the School here in the Mother House and you used to follow up with love and due firmness your pupils. Last year, the students from your very first class (by now grandmothers), came to visit you. They were still enthusiastic about your knowing how to harmonize your rigorous and serious scholastic duties with attention toward their human and spiritual growth.

Your ability to suffer and to offer in silence, without ever lamenting, has always struck us. You knew how to thank with your eyes, with your smile and with your silence filled with gratitude and affection.

Thank you for all that you have given to us and thanks also to your sister Anna and your sister-in-law Teresa who, in spite of their precarious health, came often to visit you along with your nieces and nephews. Now, we ask you to pray for us so that we can continue our mission with tenderness and dedication to uplift and help our elderly and sick Sisters.

Dearest Sisters, the certainty of future immortality and the hope of resurrection cast new light on the mystery of suffering and death and fill us with strength to entrust ourselves to God's plan. Surely, it is not easy to enter into this vision of faith and to experience suffering as proof of God's love, a means of purification and configuration to Christ the Redeemer. We have lost another Sister, but with the assurance that she is in heaven to intercede for us.

As we continue to offer our suffrages for the soul of Sr. Rosamaria, let us ask the Lord, particularly in this time of grace, to make us feel one with the suffering humanity through our prayerful commitment.

I greet you all with affection,


Sr. Gabriella Profita, Provincial Superior