

**SUORE DI SANT'ANNA**  
Provincia "Carlo Tancredi e Giulia di Barolo"  
**Via della Consolata, 20**  
Tel 011/234.22.30 - Fax 011/234.23.37  
E-mail: suorfranceschina@gmail.com  
**10122 TORINO**

Turin, 5 January 2011

*The Provincial Superior*

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life”. (Jn 3:16)***

Dearest Sisters,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus who is the most sublime manifestation of the Father’s love, these words strengthen our Faith, nourish our Hope and give meaning to our prayer, so that our dearest Sr. Stefania, who believed in His Love and trusted in His Mercy, may enjoy the fullness of Eternal life.

**Sister Stefania (Amalia Brambilla)**, was born in Ronco Briantino - Milan, on 12 March 1916, to a large family of 8 children, rich in faith and industriousness.

At the age of 21 years Sr. Stefania entered the Novitiate in Turin, where she made her:

Vestition on 10 August 1938  
First Profession on 10 August 1940  
Perpetual Vows on 10 August 1946

Sr. Stefania lived almost all her life in the Communities of Piedmont, except for 4 years in Liguria at Albenga and 2 years in Numana (the Marches). She had been in Carmagnola (Ronco Nursery), Bra (St. Anthony and Mendicità), Viù (Versino and Colonia), Ala di Stura, Moncalieri, Portacomaro, Altessano, Turin - Via Massena. But the 2 Communities where she spent the most number of years were in Pianezza (20 years) and in the Mother House (24 years).

Our dear Sister loved the Mother House very much and she accepted well “the transfer” to this House on 29 November 2010 together with the whole Community: for her, it meant coming back to “her Home”.

We remember her as hard-working, silent, reserved yet attentive to every little thing and to every person. Her life was a testimony of faithful observance, and of assiduous personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Sr. Stefania loved order and cleanliness and in offering her service as Sister in-charge of the refectory, she enjoyed keeping everything ready for the Sisters and preparing *special snacks* for the younger ones who, according to her, needed to nourish themselves more.

She loved a hidden life, humility, reservedness and poverty: for her, everything was too much.

The Lord tried her with suffering right from her youth, most especially because of her health, but she knew how to offer everything to Him with love for the salvation of souls and for her family which she was very fond of, and for whom she prayed much, wanting them to be "holy!"

Her relatives loved her as much, above all her nieces and nephews who visited her often.

Sr. Stefania had always been loved much by her Sisters; at Pianezza, in the small kitchen of the Infirmary, she worked with dearest Sr. Zenaide with whom she had a close and fraternal friendship, in preparing food for the sick and together, they tried to outdo each other in making sure that no one who visited the Community, might pass by unnoticed.

Lately, when her strength began to decline and she could no longer dedicate herself to various little services, she spent more time before the Blessed Sacrament which she adored from high up in the Church loft of Pianezza: how many rosaries recited, how many prayers offered, taken from the old books of her youth!

During these past days, her health worsened further due to respiratory complications and pulmonary oedema.

On **Thursday, 30 December 2010, at 5:15 p.m.**, due to cardiac arrest, Sr. Stefania breathed her last, surrounded by the love of the Sisters of her Community and those of the Mother House who accompanied her passing away with prayers.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, 3 January 2011, in the Chapel of the Mother House: present were the Sisters of the Communities of Pianezza and the Mother House, her sister-in-law, a nephew, and many other Sisters from the near-by Communities, who because of the Christmas holidays, were able to attend.

Her mortal remains were accompanied by Sr. Franca Rita, Sr. Almarosa and by myself to her birthplace, Ronco Briantino where they were received by a good number of persons, many relatives, nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews.

The choral recitation of the Holy Rosary and a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Parish Priest, were expressions of an active and fertile Parish Community, of a family which for generations, remained firm in the faith, by reason of solid Christian roots.

Her mortal remains were buried in the Cemetery of Ronco, beside her parents and brothers, where they now rest, awaiting the final resurrection.

Dearest Sisters, let us pray for dear Sr. Stefania as a gesture of fraternity and together with her, let us entrust to the Lord the needs of Mother General, of our Province and of the whole Congregation.

I greet you fraternally and I renew my wishes for a peaceful New Year.

  
Madre Franceschina Milanese, Superiora Provinciale