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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 20 November 2020

*"Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise
Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion". (Ps 83)*

Dearest Sisters,

On Saturday, 14th November, the day dedicated to the commemoration of the Virgin Mary, whose name she bore, our dearest Sr. Angelia left us to join Christ at the eternal wedding banquet.

Sister Angelia (*Maria Di Diodato*) was born in Narni (Terni) on 30th January 1927.

Daughter of migrants, like many at that time, Sr. Angelia recorded some traits of her family life in a notebook of Memoirs in which she traced back her childhood lived amidst many sacrifices, while waiting for the return of her father from America, an event that reunited the family bringing serenity despite the hard work. The sacrifices of her parents, in fact, made it possible to purchase a small house in Terni, where they could live in some peace.

When at the age of 20, she felt the call to religious life, young Mary, on 10-01-1947, entered the Mother House in Turin, where she lived the various stages of her formative journey:

*in August of the same year she made her vestition and two years later,
on 10th August 1949, she made her First Profession.*

Through the Perpetual Profession, on 10th August 1955, she consecrated herself to the Lord forever.

Immediately after her First Profession, Sr. Angelia remained for another year in the Mother House where she carried out her service as Assistant Sacristan, but the following year she was transferred to the Community of Viale Marconi in Rome where for five years she was assigned as Assistant Boarding Mistress.

After she obtained her Diploma for teaching in 1955, Sr. Angelia did her training in the Nursery School in Castelfidardo, thus beginning a path that would accompany her for many years of her religious life and which she considered the mission most suitable to her.

In 1956 she returned to Piedmont, in the Nursery School of Bra-Sant'Antonino where she stayed for a year, to be transferred later to the Province of South-Central Italy where she would spend the rest of her religious life: Rome, Castelfidardo, Monterotondo, Carsoli, Numana, Ribolla, Narni Stazione were the destinations of her apostolic mission from 1957 to 1994.

Throughout all those years, 22 of which were spent in her beloved Monterotondo, Sr. Angelia worked hard, teaching in the school and carrying out parish activities, offering her availability in the Communities where she had been sent.

Several times, she was given the role of Superior: the first time in 1979 at Monterotondo, then again in Carsoli in 1983 and in Acilia in 1989. Her ability to establish relationships easily, made her amiable, above all to the persons who remembered her even after many years. In particular, Sr. Angelia loved the Community and the people of Monterotondo, spending in that place the best years of her life and even after she had left the place, many families continued to maintain their rapport with her, remembering her with emotion, affection and gratitude.

Her life took a different turn in 1994, when the first signs of physical illness appeared, which down the years forced her to discontinue teaching in the Nursery School. After a period of treatment while she was in the Generalate in Rome, in 1997 she moved to the Community of Rome - Viale Marconi, with the awareness

that she could no longer take up again her place among the school desks, but had to accept what obedience would ask from her.

In fact, since 1997, for many more years Sr. Angelia's presence was very precious in the Middle and High School of Viale Marconi where she rendered her service of assistance.

With a great ability to weave relationships, she was for many years the silent and trusted confidant of students, parents and teachers who had recourse to her to ask for prayers, to confide their sorrows and to share their joys.

Her smile and delicateness with which she approached them made them open up the door of their heart to her without difficulty, contributing with her presence to making the school environment more welcoming which many children perceived as their second home.

She would be seen walking along the corridors with a rosary in hand, always with a smile, approaching everyone in the same manner without a problem: students, parents, employees, from the ladies who did the cleaning to the professors and the Principal.

These were not fleeting and hasty encounters in the corridors, but relationships that Sr. Angelia was capable of keeping alive, even when she could no longer carry out even this service. When in 2015 she left the Community of Viale Marconi and was welcomed in Stella Maris, she continued to meet, call by phone, listen to people with the same passion and vitality which had always distinguished her. Going to Viale Marconi or to Stella Maris, it was not uncommon to meet her in the corridors, while listening attentively to somebody or diligently taking note of a telephone number to make sure that she wouldn't forget their faces and to entrust their life and worries to the Lord.

When she joined the Community of Stella Maris in 2015, her health was already poor: for some years, Sr. Angelia had suffered from pain in her legs, she had difficulty moving about, to which was added a series of other complications due to her age. Little by little the difficulty in walking worsened: several times, Sr. Angelia fell down, had to undergo surgical operations, but in spite of and despite the recommendations for prudence, she always began walking again with a will and determination of her own: her faithful walker accompanied her in her walks along the corridors of Stella Maris or on visits to some Sisters who were more sick than her.

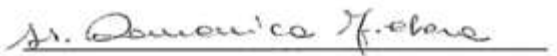
Although Sr. Angelia had severe walking problems in recent years, her health conditions worsened in the last few weeks. First, she had pneumonia which was treated and healed with confinement in hospital. Upon her return home, after a few days of improvement, she began to take a turn for the worse. On Tuesday afternoon, the 10th of November, she was taken once again to the hospital for abdominal pain and high fever; acute peritonitis was diagnosed, however, since her age and general health condition did not allow for surgery, she was brought back to the Community.

The Superior, the Sister-Nurses and the other Sisters took turns at her bedside, trying in all ways possible to alleviate her pain. Even in those moments, the body of Sr. Angelia seemed unwilling to give up, and her heart resisted until Saturday, the 14th of November, the day on which Mary, whose name she bore at baptism, took her in Her arms to lead her to her Spouse.

The funeral Mass was celebrated by the Chaplain of the Community in the Chapel of Stella Maris on 16th November in the morning. After the Eucharistic celebration, upon the request of her family members, her body was taken to Narni, where another funeral Mass was celebrated in the afternoon, at the Sanctuary of *Madonna del Ponte*. Her mortal remains were then interred in the family tomb.

Dearest Sisters, we are certain that now Sr. Angelia intercedes for all of us before the Lord. Let us entrust ourselves to her prayers while keeping her memory alive, by gratefully continuing to offer suffrages for her soul.

I greet you all with affection,



Sr. Domenica Fichera, Superiora Provinciale