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The Provincial Superior

Turin, 8th January 2021

Dearest Sisters,

While we were rapidly approaching the end of a very special year, the liturgy of Wednesday, 30th December led us to pray with these words of the Collect:

*Grant we pray, almighty God,
that the newness of the Nativity in the flesh of your only begotten Son may set us free,
for ancient servitude holds us bound, beneath the yolk of sin.*

This proclamation of life and liberation that the Church offered us on this day of Christmas time, became concrete for our dearest Sister Salvina, whom the Lord called to Himself unexpectedly.

Sister Salvina (Giuseppina Tagliareni) was born in S. Giovanni Gemini (Agrigento) on 23-07-1947, the eldest of five brothers and sisters. After having known the Sisters of St. Ann who were already present in her town, desiring to consecrate herself to the Lord, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann on 21/11/1967 at Turin Mother House where she lived the various stages of her formative journey:
On 8th September 1968 she made her Vestition
On 8th September 1970 she made her First Profession
On 4th August 1976, through the Perpetual Profession, she consecrated herself to the Lord forever.

After her Profession, Sr. Salvina carried out her mission by working as a Nursery School teacher, for which she had obtained the qualifications, both as an assistant to the orphans, as well as working in the parishes where this was possible.

Narni, Augusta, Castronovo, Rosolini, Grosseto, S. Giovanni Gemini and Bagnoregio were the Communities to which Sr. Salvina was sent by obedience and in which she lived her experience of religious life, even though very soon she had to live with illness.

In fact, from around the end of the 1970's, Sr. Salvina suffered from a severe form of kidney failure following which the doctors had recommended a transplant as the only possibility for a more serene quality of life.

It took many years, as well as the willpower and tenacity of the dear Sister, who with fidelity and absolute precision underwent home dialysis daily, before reaching the much hoped-for goal.

Despite her strength and the great desire to live, the long years in which Sr. Salvina had to subject her body to dialysis were tiring and painful for her; the inexorable rhythm of dialysis in fact marked and conditioned her life, limiting its possibilities and also causing her fear, sometimes, that the long-awaited transplant would never arrive.

Instead, in the summer of 2010, finally, while Sr. Salvina was temporarily in the Community of Grosseto, the long-awaited call came suddenly, inviting her to report immediately to the Hospital in Palermo, Sicily, where she would be subjected to the transplant.

Only the timely and prompt help of the Sisters of the Community of Grosseto made it possible for her to travel immediately, late at night, from Grosseto to Palermo in order to be present in the hospital on time.

The prayers and hopes of many years had the desired result, so much so that she was able to face the transplant, an event that permitted her to “be reborn”, and which Sr. Salvina experienced as a new opportunity for life on the part of God.

A few months after the surgery, on her return to Tuscany, in her Community of Caldana, Sr. Salvina did nothing but praise the Lord and thank all the Sisters for the attention received.

In subsequent years, the Parish and the Padre Pio Centre of the Hospital of Grosseto called her several times to give her testimony of this experience and she was always available to do so, to thank God for the new opportunity of life that she had been granted to her.

From that moment onwards, the Sister was able to lead an absolutely normal life, albeit with the caution required by the situation. A member of the Community of Caldana since 2007, Sr. Salvina continued to make herself available in the various community activities, in childcare, in simple parish services, always asking to do more.

Nothing, therefore, forewarned such a sudden departure for heaven; among other things, precisely on 5th September this year she had joyfully celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession in the Community of Viale Marconi-Rome, enjoying the affection of the Sisters who had gathered for the feast and of her family members who were present.

Dearest Sr. Annalisa who had shared with her the mission in the Community of Caldana since 2007, says that until the evening before her death, Sr. Salvina had spent a quiet evening, actually planning the various activities to be carried out together the next day.

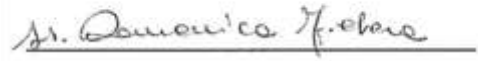
Only the next morning, 30th December, Sr. Annalisa, preoccupied because she had not yet seen her after a certain hour, went to her room to make sure that everything was alright. On her arrival, she found her lying on the bed and at once understood the gravity of the situation, so she immediately gave the alarm, calling the doctor, informing her superiors and relatives.

The small Parish community of Caldana, almost a family, learned with dismay of what had happened and made itself present in many ways. The bishop of Grosseto too, Msgr. Rodolfo Cetoloni, the Parish Priest and other priests were very supportive, expressing their esteem and affection towards the Community and the Congregation.

The funeral took place on 1st January 2021, presided over by Sr. Salvina’s nephew, Don Enrico Russotto, and concelebrated by Don Enzo Mantiloni, Parish Priest of Caldana. Besides the Sisters from the nearby Community of Grosseto, some family members from Tuscany and Lombardy took part in the celebration. Mother General and Sr. Sabrina Pollini from the Generalate were also present. At the end of the funeral celebration, her body was transported to San Giovanni Gemini, at the request of the family, where Sr. Salvina was laid to rest with her loved ones.

Dearest Sisters, we are certain that now our Sister intercedes for all of us before the Lord: we entrust ourselves to her prayers, while we gratefully keep her memory alive, by continuing to offer suffrages for her soul.

I greet you all with affection.



Sr. Domenica Fichera, Superiora Provinciale