

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: sup.provinciale.italia@gmail.com

10122 TORINO

The Provincial Superior

Turin, 30th June 2021

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Ps 15:11)

Sister Lucia Maria (**Lucrezia Summo**) was born in Ruvo di Puglia (Bari) on 19th December 1945, in a family of 11 children, the youngest of four daughters.

At the age of 14, when she was more in need of guidance and orientation, the young teenager experienced the tragedy of the death of her mother, who left her husband and children still in need of care. Therefore, young Lucrezia together with her sisters, experienced at a young age the fatigue of life, taking on herself the duties of the house, the care of her brothers and father, who was working to support the large family.

In an atmosphere of great laboriousness and unity, made even stronger by suffering that kept the family together, Lucrezia experienced faith as a necessary requirement of life and the only answer to many questions. The years of adolescence and youth were therefore, for her, a time of discernment, entrusted above all to prayer, which she always considered as vital for her life and to which she devoted much time. To this was added her meeting and dialogue with "Miss Cecilia", sister of our Sr. Rina Stragapede, who for many Sisters of St. Ann, had been a reference point, spiritual guide and support in their vocational choice.

Thus, at the age of 21, she followed in the footsteps of her sister Maria Rosa (Sr. Nicoletta) who was already a Sister of St. Ann, and she embarked on the journey of religious life.

On 3rd January 1966, she entered the Mother House in Turin, where she began her formative itinerary. In the same year she made her Vestition and in 1968 her First Profession. She then continued the stages of her formative journey until 1975, when she consecrated her life definitively to the Lord through the Perpetual Profession, which took place for the first time, in the Generalate, Rome.

From the early years of religious life, Sr. Lucia Maria's aptitude for caring for the little ones and the weakest emerged, for which she was directed to teaching, and in 1971, she obtained her Kindergarten Teacher's Diploma.

In the same year Sr. Lucia Maria began her itinerary as a teacher, in the Community of Sangemini, and then again, in the following years, at Narni, Grosseto, S. Giovanni Gemini, Sirolo and Castelfidardo. In 1986, Sr. Lucia Maria was asked to "cross the Strait" to go to Sicily, to the Community of Acireale, as Teacher and Boarding Mistress. There, for more than a decade, she expended the best energies of mind and heart, spending herself entirely for children, families, Sisters of the Community, sustained by the power of prayer, which was her nourishment, refuge and strength.

Behind a seemingly harsh attitude, those who did not let themselves be intimidated by this appearance, were able to see a shy and deeply maternal woman, an attitude which made her absolutely indispensable in the most different situations of daily life. “Lucia ... Luci” was the call, uttered a thousand times by the Sisters, who used to refer to her, to solve small and big daily problems. They always had recourse to Sr. Lucia and to her industriousness as a concrete woman, capable of unravelling every situation, passing quickly from one service to another, resolving an unexpected event like “medicating” the “wounds and scratches” of her little pupils, and the ailments of the young and elderly Sisters. Quick and delicate at the same time, she knew how to ease the discomfort or embarrassment of those who went to her with some request; thus permeating relationships with great naturalness, bringing out the beauty of daily sharing, made up of little responsibilities, help and sincere affection.

After the fruitful and serene years at Acireale, in 1997, she was sent by obedience to S. Giovanni Gemini as Superior of the Community as well as Teacher in the Nursery School, a service that she carried out for six years, despite the fact that she felt it was something very far from her shy and reserved nature. Nonetheless, Sr. Lucia let herself be deeply involved in the needs of the people, of the children, and of the families. In her relationship with them, her delicate, affectionate and cheerful nature shone through; the songs, the dances, the jokes, were her life; the hordes of children who passed through her hands became her passion; she did not mind the fatigue, weariness and late nights spent for them, becoming one of them.

Yet, in 2001, after the closure of the Community of S. Giovanni Gemini, where she experienced the pain of another detachment, Sr. Lucia accepted the obedience that sent her to the Community of Rome-Viale Marconi. There too, even with her heart “full”, love for the mission and for the children entrusted to her got the better of her, providentially supported and encouraged by the presence of the Sisters, who had already shared some stretches of life’s journey with her.

But the assignments of Sr. Lucia did not end, because in 2007, she had to leave Rome, sent first to Sirolo and then to Grosseto in 2013, her last apostolic destination. Although Sr. Lucia was fully immersed in apostolic and community life, her body gradually began to show signs of “weariness and fatigue”, also affecting her psyche. From that moment, her most difficult journey began, one marked by the cross, by her physical and moral suffering that purified her like gold in the crucible. The signs of her illness gradually became more evident, forcing her to abandon teaching in the classroom, while keeping herself available for little services in the school and for many small tasks in the Community. Nevertheless, when her health condition worsened, in 2018, Sr. Lucia was transferred to the Community of Casa Madre, in Turin, in the hope also that proximity to her sister Sr. Nicoletta, would improve her health.

Nothing remained of her strength and willpower, typical of her temperament: they had given way to the abandonment of one who surrenders oneself with docility into safe hands. Her health problems worsened, and her neurological problem did not allow her to have an independent life, for which, Sr. Lucia had no choice but to meekly let herself be accompanied by the Sisters, letting herself be led, by now helpless, while the smile of one, who feels loved and welcomed, would appear on her face. After staying in the Mother House, Turin for two years, in 2020, she returned to Rome, to the Community of Stella Maris, where she remained until the moment of her death. Here, her health condition gradually got worse, although nothing predicted such a sudden end.

On 12th June, she was taken to hospital, to the emergency ward, after her health deteriorated. Since some time, in fact, Sr. Lucia, had fallen into a state of profound physical debilitation which her body, already so weak, was not able to bear. After a few days, in which it seemed that her

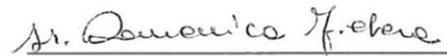
condition was improving, on 16th June, around midnight, Sr. Lucia Maria left for the Father's House, to meet her Spouse whom she had loved so much.

Her funeral was celebrated in the big Chapel of the Community of Rome-Viale Marconi, at which some members of her family who had come from Ruvo di Puglia when she had got worse, were also present. In his homily, the Chaplain underlined an aspect that has always been important in Sr. Lucia's life: *"in the school today, there is much talk of knowledge related to individual subjects. However, let us not forget that knowledge needs Knowledge (in its etymological meaning "to know" = "sapere" = to give flavour). Sr. Lucia Maria taught us knowledge as the flavour of life, deriving from faith in Christ and which she knew to instil in many hearts"*.

After her funeral, her mortal remains were taken to the Prima Porta Cemetery, Rome, where she now rests in peace with all our other Sisters.

Sr. Lucia has gone quickly, in silence, almost secretly, as she had always lived, now she is in heaven with her sister Porzia, whom she had loved so much, and with her parents. Now that she is in the Light of that beloved God, we ask her to pray for her family, for her sister Margherita, for our dearest Sr. Nicoletta and also for us, who have shared with her a part of the journey, interceding for the needs of our Congregation in such a very special time as this.

I greet you all with much affection,



Sr. Domenica Fichera, Provincial Superior