

## On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, a sweet memory ...



Dear Sisters!

On such a beautiful day as today, when we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, I want to greet each one of you by asking Mary to make us grow in love for Jesus, the Church, the Congregation, and that, just as the "Pearls" of the Rosary, we too can always be united among ourselves, in the communities, in the provinces and delegations, in the religious family! May the prayer of the Holy Rosary be the strength and inspiration for all LMSC, to live in fidelity to the vocation and mission we have embraced, and may Mary keep us in her Heart and bring us to Jesus.

I would also like to bring to our memory the figure of one of our Sisters, a lover of Our Lady and very faithful to the prayer of the Rosary, who passed into eternity, like today, 7 October, 31 years ago: Sr. M. Margherita Balossi.

Many of us, especially in Argentina, keep the memory of Sr. M. Margherita alive in our hearts: her always sweet and strong words, her penetrating gaze, her serene and agile figure, her hands with "that finger" stiffened due to an old wound always grasping the Rosary, her recollected attitude and her true and sincere exhortations, her fidelity and love to the Congregation, her obedience and availability without conditions or half measures, in short, her great love for God and every sister, as a true "mother" and sister ...

Even today, those who have had the grace not only to know her but also to share life with her, we remember her advice, her reproaches, her voice, and we feel a profound joy and a keen sense of gratitude to God for having given her to us as a sister.

In this month of the Rosary, in this month dedicated to the Missions, in this Orionine Vocational Year, in this year in which we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Don Orione in Latin America ... it is nice to remember the figure of the Sisters who opened the furrow of the missionary charity of the nascent Congregation, which have left a luminous trail and who have had to give themselves entirely for the Church, for the Congregation, for the missions and for vocations, in the footsteps of the beloved Founder.

Today, in the memory of our dearest Sr. M. Margherita Balossi, we also embrace many others that we certainly have in the affective memory of our hearts and of our history, and that I invite you to remember in the Community.

Let us look at them in the light they have lit in the Congregation.

Let's look at them in their humanity made up of fortresses and fragility.

We look at their life, their fidelity and daily holiness.

We ask, on this day and this month, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Luigi Orione that we too, today, can be strength, light, enthusiasm, love ... like Sr. M. Margherita and many, many others, and that they help us to continue the journey they started, to be with our lives an evangelical and vocational "provocation" for those who look at us.

Here are some passages on the life of our dear Sr. M. Margherita Balossi, written in her obituary, and which can help those who have not known her to enhance her figure and to those who have known her to remember her with gratitude.

*Mary, our Mother, Virgin of the Rosary, pray for us!*

I embrace you fraternally!

Sr. M. Mabel Spagnuolo  
Roma, October 07, 2021.



**October 7, 1990**  
**SISTER MARIA MARGHERITA**  
**Contemplative cloister of Jesus Crucified**

Al secolo MANILIA BALOSSI.  
Born in Cisano, Bergamo, on November 23, 1912.  
Died in Tortona, Villa Caritas on 7 October 1990.  
First Profession on 2.02.1936,  
Perpetual Profession on 06/29/1946.

When she still very young she felt the call of the Lord to consecrate herself entirely to Him. Her answer has never failed, nor has she ever doubted.

She entered in the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity with the secret desire to be sent to the Missions; a desire that she never manifested, but which she saw fulfilled to her great joy, when she came to know that she was chosen to be sent to Argentina.

She spent a short period of time in Claypole's nascent Piccolo Cottolengo and then was chosen to fulfill the delicate office of novice mistress. Office that he built for thirty years with an uncommon dedication.

She showed particular attention to the weakest, most tested, most difficult people.

Her prayer was constant, intimate, profound. She lived fraternal charity with great delicacy; She was always accompanied by a very special love for purity that made her extremely transparent in everything. In her presence there was an atmosphere of goodness, peace and a humble and sweet joy. Being with her one felt that was close to a person who was always united with God.

Divine Providence also wanted her to be Provincial Superior in Argentina for nine years, and she was Superior in the large community of Claypole, before and after the service of Provincial Superior.

It was in Claypole that the group of lay consecrated women called "Missionaries of Hope" arose out of her constant interest and support. A group made up entirely of physically handicapped young people. They consecrated themselves to the Lord to live as witnesses of the suffering Christ among the assistants of the Little Cottolengo. Sr. M. Margherita helped them to consolidate.



In the VII General Chapter, in the light of prayer and reflection, the time seemed ripe to begin in our Institute a “contemplative” community about which, at a certain moment, Don Orione spoke and wrote. Sr. M. Margherita felt strongly called to this new way of consecrated life and only upon seeing it, one could already admire her fervent desire to join the small group that would initiate this new contemplative reality.



Thus, just 23 days from the beginning of this new life, the Lord called her to himself to sing His praise eternally, on the day of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

We can truly say that we are faced with a creature of proven virtue who lived her donation to the Lord with generosity and consistency because, living in faith, hope, and charity was for her "the food of every day". Silence and serene joy were in her like a ray of light; the purity of her gaze revealed a heart capable of attracting souls to God.

Before God, she certainly intercedes for all of us, but especially for those who have been formed under his watchful and loving gaze.