

Sister Emma Del Grosso :

(February 13, 1892 - March 3, 1984)

"...Arise my beloved, my beautiful
one and come!"

Song of Songs 2:10

Sister Emma, our beloved and oldest Sister in the U.S. Province has answered the call of her Father and Maker.

Born Rosaria Del Grosso in Circello, Benevento, Italy on February 13, 1892 of Damian and Serafina Del Grosso, she entered the Congregation on October 3, 1911 and received the Holy Habit on May 19, 1912 taking the name of Sister Emma.

After taking first vows on May 25, 1913, Sister Emma was assigned to the United States and together with the other Sisters of the second group of pioneers, she arrived at St. Lucy's in Newark on August 30, 1913 assuming the office as cook, performing domestic duties and soliciting alms for the orphaned and the needy.

After ten years, she left Newark to continue the same duties in various convents of the Congregation among which were Mt. St. John in Purchase, St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island, Our Lady of Loreto in Manhattan and Providence Rest in the Bronx. She returned to Mt. St. John in Purchase in 1955 to cook for the Sisters for another four years after which she retired from active duty.

On November 20, 1983 she became ill and was taken to St. Agnes Hospital where she remained for exactly one month. By this time, she had become quite weak and needed nursing care. Therefore, on December 20, she was transferred by ambulance to Providence Rest.

During her life time Sister Emma was kind and courteous to all. She lived a simple and exemplary religious life, loved and had great concern for her fellow Sisters especially the young for whom she always had a kind and encouraging word. Her great love and devotion for the Blessed Mother merited for her the grace to die on the first Saturday of March and perhaps the fulfillment of the promises of Our Lady that "whoever died wearing the Scapular would be saved." She wore this "heavenly garment" ever since she could remember, but when it was taken away from her at the time she went to the hospital, she asked that it be put on her at the time of her death.

The Holy Rosary was always in her hands. She meditated on its divine mysteries constantly imploring graces for her Community, which she loved so much, asking for final perseverance for herself and imploring the Blessed Mary Ever Virgin for world peace.

Mary's name was always on her lips and in her mind. During her last weeks on earth, she often called on Mary to come and take her.

It may seem a coincidence (but was it?) that at about 4:30 p.m. of that first Saturday in March she had just finished saying "Madonna mia, prendimi", when Bishop Pernicone while making his rounds to bless the sick, came to her room and blessed her, to whom she responded devoutly saying "thank you Bishop", the "thank you" she always uttered, no matter what act or word anyone every extended to her.

Sister Emma then fell asleep and serenely gave up her spirit to her Lord and Spouse, going back to her heavenly home to be united with Him and the Mother who came to take her in answer to her call.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!