

SISTER MARY GIORDANELLI

(November 1, 1883 - April 20, 1962)

On April 20, 1962, Good Friday, our dear Sister Mary Giordanelli, in the world, Rosalba, serenely passed to a better life, comforted by the last Sacraments. Age, 79. Religion, 58.

Sister Mary Giordanelli was born at Cetraro (Cosenza) on November 1, 1883, to pious parents, Dr. Leopold and Maryann Falcone. The fourth of four children, she did not enjoy the intimate joys of family life for a long time, for, at a very tender age, she lost her father. After a short while, her mother remarried, entrusting the education of the children to a paternal aunt. Even though she was tenderly cared for by her loving aunt, Rosalba was always noticeably sad for the loss of her parents. This sadness will later on urge her to great charity towards the suffering and the afflicted. Humble and pious she spent long hours in the Church of Ritiro, together with her aunt, praying before the crucifix. It was here, in the sanctuary of love, that the idea of helping her cousin, Teresa Militerni, our future Sister Crucifix, in the works of the apostolate on behalf of abandoned youth of the town, took definite shape in her mind.

The meeting of four Sisters of St. John the Baptist, sent to Cetraro by our Venerated Founder to initiate the same apostolic works done in Angri, was providential for the two cousins, who ardently desired to dedicate themselves to the care of youth. Thus they decided to enter the incipient Congregation.

Rosalba Giordanelli entered the Congregation the first Sunday of October 1903, and received the holy habit on June 20, 1905. Father Founder presided at the ceremony of reception, giving our fervent postulant a new name - Sister Mary. Sister was of great help to Mother Crucifix Militerni, working and suffering that the grain of mustard seed, sown by our Venerated Founder in Calabria, grow into a gigantic tree. She dedicated herself completely to the apostolic works of Cetraro until 1927, when she was transferred to Rome and subsequently to Civitella San Paolo, Province of Rome, where she labored with the same zeal and abnegation.

Having returned to her dear Cetraro, after a few years, she remained there until her death. Especially devoted to Jesus Crucified, Whose devotion she spread in the Community and in the town, she was a meek and silent soul.

Stricken with frequent heart attacks, she never complained, but offered her sufferings for the salvation of souls and for the church. A few days before her death, when there was no reason to foresee her end, she said to the Sister who was taking care of her, that on Good Friday she would join her Celestial Spouse in heaven. And it was on Good Friday, April 20, 1962, that Sister Mary, serenely, almost unnoticed to those who surrounded her, breathed her last.

Cetraro, Sister Mary's native town, had lost a citizen who had done so much good and was so well loved by all her townfolk. Throngs of people from all classes went to pay their respects to the mortal remains of Sister Mary. The township took care of the solemn funeral services attended by the Mayor, his council and other dignitaries. The town flag, escorted by

the municipal guards, preceded the funeral cortege which was followed by large crowds of people who sincerely mourned the loss of a dedicated, selfless religious.

Sister Mary was buried in the cemetery of Cetraro where she rests in peace, awaiting her resurrection on the last day.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!