

In Memory of Sr. Mary Grace Sangiorgi, SA

~ Reflection submitted by the Sisters in Assisi ~
AUGUST 2012

Birth: December 8, 1922 • **Death:** August 5, 2012 in Quadrelli, Italy
Entered our Congregation: March 25, 1938 in Assisi, Italy
First Profession: June 5, 1941 • **Final Vows:** June 17, 1946



Sr. Mary Grace Sangiorgi, died peacefully in the convent of St. Francis in Quadrelli, Italy, during the dawn of Sunday August 5th, 2012, the Feast (in Rome) of the Madonna della Neve (*The Madonna of the Snow*)! Sisters Alessandra & Maria Anna were present at her bedside.

In the morning, the pastor of the parish accompanied the new Bishop Benedetto Tuzia (Orvieto-Todi diocese) to visit and bless the body. This was his first pastoral visit to the convent! During the course of the day, friends, neighbors, and parishioners visited the body and the local community to give their condolences. In the evening, the Vigil of prayer, readings and rosary took place in the convent chapel.

The next morning at 11:00am, the *Feast of the Transfiguration*, the funeral liturgy took place in the convent chapel. Naturally, the Mass for the feast day was celebrated.

His Eminence, Cardinal Giovanni Coppa (*ex-ambassador of the Holy See in Prague of the Czech Republic and dear friend of the community "at the Gallo" in Rome*) presided at the funeral liturgy, while the following priests con-celebrated: Fr. Lecke (*local pastor*), Fr. Brian Terry, SA, Fr. Piero & Fr. Alessandro Sciaboletta (*former local pastors*), and Fr. Derrick (*pastoral assistant from Poland*).

As noted in the homily, His Eminence shared the significant dates of the lifeline of Sr. Mary Grace: her birth on December 8th (*Feast of the Immaculate Conception*) and her death on August 5th (*Feast of Our Lady of the Snow & the Vigil of the Feast of the Transfiguration*).
He also shared Sister's three loves:
love of the Virgin Mother, love for the Redeemer Christ, and love for souls!

He gave thanks for the prayer, presence, and ministry of the Sisters on the Gallo ... especially to the people of God through the Church of the Immacolata.

Following the Mass, the casket carrying the remains of Sr. Mary Grace was transferred to her birth town of Carpineto Romano (*south of Rome*). There in the family chapel in the village cemetery are buried the parents of Sr. Mary Grace and her sisters, Clara and Aldina, and brothers Rinaldo, Riziero, Damiano and Fr. Jeremiah, OSA. It was a significant moment to witness the reception by the family, comprised of nephews and nieces and cousins. A priest friend gave the final blessing and prayer at the entrance to the cemetery and then Sr. Mary Grace's body was accompanied to its final resting place. Sr. Maria Albina, Andriana (*caregiver of Sr. Mary Grace for the past 6 years*) Sr. Alessandra, and Sr. Sue were also present for this final farewell.

Really, Sr. Mary Grace's S.A. community has kept constant and faithful vigil during this last stage of her life. We are thankful for the strong prayer support of the Atonement family and we give thanks to God for her long life!

Pace, your Assisi Sisters