

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF BLESSED MOTHER ENRICHETTA

**Sisters of St. Ann, a Family for Families
Journeying with the Church, bringing Hope and Joy to the world today**

FROM A FAMILY

First day

Theme: The Vocation to love and to communion

Thought for the day: “Among your duties the greatest is fraternal charity. It is this fraternal union that prospers Religious Houses. We must realise that each of us can be unwittingly a cross for others for we all have our faults, as well as our good points. Let us be united. To achieve this we must be generous and humble; we must overlook many things and help one another whenever possible.” – Mother Enrichetta

“God is love and in Himself He lives a mystery of personal loving communion. Creating the human race in His own image and continually keeping it in being, God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation, and thus the capacity and responsibility, of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.” –(Familiaris Consortio 11)

Short pause

From the Lineamenta: We read in Genesis, after having created everything, God created man and made him king of creation¹, but the creative act of God went further, He considered that it was not good for man to be alone! He created him in His image and likeness, that is, in the image of Himself who is Trinity of Persons, therefore He made him for communion. In fact, He offered him Eve as his companion, a treasure of grace and purity: precisely the encounter with another face, with a “thou”, reflects God’s own love. Right from birth, the human person is invited to communion and dialogue with God and with others. The vocation to love and to communion is inscribed in the humanity of man and woman. In this consists the dignity of each one of us. In following this call, lies our responsibility and happiness.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

Second day

Theme: Rooted in the Trinitarian Family

Thought for the day: “ I desire that every tongue be loosened at every moment singing: glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit. Yes, glory, glory, eternal glory always and by all be given to the ineffable and most loveable Trinity”.- Mother Enrichetta.

«Our God in His deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for He has within Himself fatherhood, Sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit» - (Pope John Paul II)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: By observing and listening to what Jesus said and did, the disciples were led to understand the relationship of the Son with the Father and the mystery of the three Divine Persons. In the same way we too, on the path of following Christ, enter more and more into the mystery of the Trinitarian Life. **Mother Enrichetta experienced this in a particularly vivid way. There was in her an untiring search for the Divine Trinity indwelling in her soul, a perception we would say, sensitive to Its presence, because she writes: "...I had within me the Most Holy Trinity...; I never lost sight of the Most Blessed Trinity...; Oh! how vibrant is the devotion that I feel to the Holy Trinity!" 5 . The whole of Mother Enrichetta's Spiritual Diary is filled with references to the Holy Trinity with filial and confidential tones. From her we learn to live in constant dialogue with the three Divine Persons: total abandonment to the Father, imitation of the Son who gives His life and constant docility to the action of the Spirit.** M. Enrichetta, I, p. 234. 251; IIB, p. 350

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

Third day

Theme: Journeying in the big Family which is the Church

Thought for the day: "At times I like to behave like a child with my good God and I swear that I would cry if He does not do for me what I asked Him for the feast of St. Peter, as a reward for the sacrifice known to you, that He wanted from me some time ago. I tell Him: I will live as long as you want, I will do as much as you desire, but you remember what I want: The Church, Father, the Church! Do you want to make me cry? Only a few days, and then it is the feast of St. Peter! My dear Father, there is very little, but you do not need time to accomplish your works over us, your infinite mercy. Therefore I hope for everything from your infinite bounty!!". – Mother Enrichetta

"In the Church each one of us finds what is needed to believe, to live as Christians, to become holy... we can say that it is like family life. In the family, everything that enables us to grow, to mature and to live is given to each of us. We cannot grow up by ourselves, we cannot journey on our own, in isolation; rather, we journey and grow in a Community, in a family. And so it is in the Church!... The Church is Catholic because she is everyone's home. Everyone is a child of the Church and in her all find their home..."- (Pope Francis)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: The sense of the Church was then, very much alive in our Blessed Mother Enrichetta: it had strongly penetrated her soul. Her love for it, her "feeling part" of it, making its sufferings her own, was the fundamental motive of her prayer and self-sacrifice. And she inspired and guided the Sisters along this path, to feel that they were a living part of the Church, of that Church which, today, Pope Francis calls a field hospital, an outgoing Church, a Church that goes towards the peripheries to encounter and welcome new children or to find again those who had been lost along the way... From this same vision, though many decades earlier, a great dream had been born in the heart of Mother Enrichetta: the mission to lands where Christ was still little known, where the Church was daring to take steps in reaching out to the poorest, the marginalized and those rejected by society.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

IN A FAMILY

Fourth Day

Theme: An authentic family spirit

Thought for the day: “Jesus would like His spouses to love one another with true love, and to have but one heart and one soul. It is truly a consolation for me to find myself among these my good daughters who live serenely, united in holy delight and form but one heart and one soul.” - Mother Enrichetta.

“The acceptance of diversity is not an end in itself, but is at the service of the divine plan of making the whole of humanity the great family of the children of God.” – (Vita Consecrata 35)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: Mother Enrichetta used to say: “Jesus would like His spouses to love one another with true love, and to have but one heart and one soul” . Family spirit is made up of simple things like trust, goodness, acceptance, sharing, humour etc. and at the same time it is sustained by a strong foundation: the centrality of Jesus who is always present in our life and among us. Only “with Jesus at the centre” it is beautiful and possible to nourish our family spirit every day, that is, to commit ourselves to cultivate simple, sincere and cordial relationships, to create occasions for joyful fraternity, sustain ourselves in times of trial and feel responsible for one another.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

Fifth day

Theme: Collaboration and sharing with many families of the laity

Thought for the day: “Courage, my dear daughters, and then holy abandonment to God, not seeking anything but only his pleasure in everything! To give pleasure to God! To abandon oneself fully to Him!”-Mother Enrichetta

“The Church highlights the richness of the “collaboration”, in which it wants that there be an appropriate contact between the values characteristic of the lay vocation. Through this, a real and enriching exchange of gifts takes place ” – (Fraternal life in the Community 70)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: The LASA groups are a gift for us, but also a commitment and a responsibility, towards those persons who trust in our Religious Family and depend on it for their spiritual journey, and also towards the Charism itself. In fact, it has been placed in our hands, to be passed on, to find ever new ways and means of being actualized in different times and in different geographical areas. At this

moment we do not know where the Spirit wants to lead us, and the experience of collaboration and sharing with the laity has different characteristics and connotations in the various Provinces and Delegations. However, we are certain that openness to a Spiritual Family, which shares the Charism of Carlo Tancredi and Giulia, through different ways along the paths of this world of ours, is the call that the Spirit is making to us today. We do not want to turn a deaf ear to this call, but to respond to it with the attitude that distinguished Mother Enrichetta in facing new situations: simplicity of abandonment to God and courage deriving from fidelity to the Charism received.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

A FAMILY FOR FAMILIES

Sixth day

Theme: The Human Family in the world today

Thought for the day: : I leave tranquil, because I see you all full of goodwill and united in holy and fraternal affection, and if you permit me to ask you a favour, it is precisely this: to do your best to grow more and more in this union of hearts".- Mother Enrichetta.

"In the present day world there is no stereotype of a family, but rather "a challenging mosaic" made up of many different realities, with all their joys, tragedies and dreams. Even the problems about which we are concerned are challenges which are a test for our educational service and stimulate us to missionary creativity." – (Amoris Laetitia 57)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: Today there are families that have migrated or displaced, from their villages, States and Countries to other places for various reasons. The Bible itself is a story of migration; an exodus of generations. "Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt", and Jesus too, while still a baby, went through this experience because of Herod. In fact, the Gospel describes the concern of Joseph who, warned by the Angel took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt. The experience of leaving one's country or village is at the very root of the history of our own Congregation. All Piedmont smiled at Giulietta and although naturally fond of her native land, she had an equal affection for the land of her husband and more to that, gave to Piedmont her predilection. So also Mother Enrichetta's family, when their father left them, went to live in another locality. Many of our families may have experienced this phenomenon with its positive and negatives effects. And in our mission, we find ourselves dealing with people and families who come from places different from ours.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

Seventh Day

Theme: With a Missionary heart to the peripheries of the world

Thought for the day: “Goodness! Infinite goodness of my God! I would like to reach all the most remote parts of the world in order to make known to all human creatures how great, immense and infinite is Your paternal goodness!” – Mother Enrichetta.

“The Church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries: the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents, and of all misery”- (Pope Francis)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: This longing to go out to the peripheries of prison walls, dirty narrow streets and homes to console and help the poor, we see it clearly present in the lives and writings of our Founders: “May true charity never tire of delving with loving concern into every smallest or most disgusting misfortune of the human condition”. “Good God! In your name I will go to change the tears of desperation into those of sweet hope”. We know how Mother Enrichetta, even as a young girl, was aflame with the love of Christ which she desired to spread in the whole world with missionary zeal. “Goodness! Infinite goodness of my God! I would like to reach all the most remote parts of the world in order to make known to all human creatures how great, immense and infinite is Your paternal goodness!”.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

Eighth day

Theme: Vitally incorporated in the Universal Family

Thought for the day: “The fact of opening a house in India, had a great effect on the community, and all in general were motivated to virtue. They were edified by the calm resignation and the joy that shone on the faces of each of the six elected for the mission of Hyderabad and commonly it was spoken of with admiration and respect”-Mother Enrichetta.

The Church is “missionary by nature. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity; she exists in order to evangelize”- (Evangeli Nuntiandi 14)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: In fact, our Religious Family right from the early decades has lived this healthy tension towards universality when in the year 1850, our Foundress Giulia sent the Sisters out of the State of Piedmont, founding the Community of Castelfidardo which was in the Pontifical State, and Mother Enrichetta in 1871 sent the first missionary Sisters to India. So for them, State, national and continental frontiers were not barriers to the expansion of the Institute and our Sisters courageously accepted the challenge of entering into other cultures with different languages and religions. This missionary dimension of our Congregation was given further impetus by our Superiors General from the 1970s onwards, through the opening of new missions in different countries and Sisters opting for missions. This missionary thrust continues and will continue in fidelity to the Charism of our Institute.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta

Ninth day

Theme: The World Family in the Common Home

Thought for the day: “I will accept everything in a true spirit of poverty. I’ll never complain about food or clothes, but will receive everything from the Community, my tender mother, like a poor person who deserves nothing and receives everything out of charity. In this regard I continue with the method which I have been following for many years, that is of considering myself a poor creature who receives her sustenance as charity from the common mother, the Congregation”. – Mother Enrichetta.

“The World Family has a common home, which “is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”- (Laudato Si 1)

Short Pause

From the Lineamenta: The World Family has a common home, which “is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”. Mother Enrichetta had a great respect for nature. She loved birds to the extent of suffering when they died. Most of all she loved flowers and spent every bit of her time attending them. As a child, she already developed what we call today an environment-friendly and eco-friendly life. Our Founders too loved nature, they were concerned about creating a healthy environment for the integral growth of the children in the Kindergarten and also strived hard to offer a dignified ambience to the prisoners and the poor. Carlo Tancredi, through his political commitments, also did his best to ensure that Turin be a healthy and beautiful city, liveable for all.

Short Pause

Prayer or Hymn to Mother Enrichetta
