



**Monastery of Sacred Heart - July 18 2013
67th anniversary of birth to Heaven
of the Servant of God Sister M. Consolata Betrone**

**FROM THE HOMILY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MGR. EDOARDO ALDO CERRATO
BISHOP OF IVREA**

**TO TRUST GOD: FROM THE YEAR OF FAITH
TO THE NEW EVANGELIZATION**

Dearest brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ be praised.

It seems to me that there are some words that resound with a particular accent today and in this "ideal" Convent: on the other hand, a few hundred meters from here, we are inside the "Sacred Heart" Convent, even if we are physically outside the walls. There are, therefore, words that resound with a particular accent today, in this place and they are those that have always struck me: "*You will pass from your cell to Heaven*". Like that the Lord had promised Sister M. Consolata saying: "*Consolata you must not pass through Purgatory, but it is My will that you pass from your cell to Heaven*" and, again: "*This morning during Meditation Jesus, held me tight to His Heart with maternal tenderness (Internally I see myself like, I am always a little girl of about six years old), he says: Love me only, Love me always, nothing else...Jesus, what will Heaven be like, if one hour alone has inebriated me?*".

But do we think about this Heaven? Because Heaven is the only aim for which we live: all the others are penultimate, this is the final aim;

but final not only in the chronological sense, final in the sense that it's the highest, it's there where our life is called to push itself.

"You will pass from your cell to Heaven": the day of departing for the Promised Land, July 18th of 67 years ago, it was prepared for Sister M. Consolata by the total donation of herself as she had lived in her consecration to the Lord, allowing herself to be lead to the most profound abyss' of that Heart of Christ that, as the Liturgy says, is the heart of the world: "Father you have made, of the Heart of Christ, the Heart of the world".

This departing for Heaven was prepared, in her culminating phase, from November 1945, when Sister M. Consolata was asked the immense sacrifice of leaving the Convent for the sanatorium, her cell for a hospital bed, the ecstatic prayer in front of Eucharistic Jesus to repeat, with hands intertwined with the Rosary: *"Jesus, Mary I love you, save souls"*.

But the promise of the Lord was clear: she would have departed for Heaven from her cell and to her cell Sister M. Consolata had the joy of returning a few days before her departure for Heaven. To Father Lorenzo Sales, a long time before, she had written, with the awareness and humility that only the great souls can conjugate together: *"The Divine Heart, one day showing me to the world will have only a phrase: She trusted in Me. She believed Me!"*.

"She trusted in Me, she believed Me": is what the Lord always and first of all asks to those that he calls for a mission of which the protagonist is not the one called, but the One who calls. It was what God asked also of Moses, as we have heard a little while ago in the First Reading (Es 3,13-20). Moses trusted in Him and he believed him on Mount Horeb and in taking the road for his return to Egypt: again, in the moment of exiting Egypt, bringing with him God's people, those people that God had decided to set free; he trusted in Him and he still believed him, when the Egyptian army loomed behind them and with the people he passed through the road opened for them in the middle of the sea.

"I AM the One who Is", God had said to Moses, "I AM the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, this is my name, for always". The only Being, thanks to which all the other exist, is the infinite Being and perfect in himself, but his Being is "to be for", "to be in favour of", "to be with". The Being is charity, God is Love: this is the God that in the Ancient Alliance encountered Moses in the burning bush, he is the God that in the new Alliance he manifested himself to Sister M. Consolata in the Heart of Jesus, beating and alive in the Eucharistic Presence. He is the same God that calls to confidence, to faith, that proposes to man and woman to let him make

of their lives a masterpiece of beauty, letting themselves be guided away from the remoteness with God, away from the slavery and closure in ourselves.

"*You will be the confidence*", says the Lord to Sister M. Consolata. "*Consolata don't put limits on the confidence in Me and I won't put limits on my graces towards you...In the womb of Church, you will be the confidence*". A little while before, he had said to her: "*Consolata, look at the sky...and she wrote: "I looked at it and in the marvellous blue I discovered a star, Jesus shouted loudly to my heart: Confidence!"*".

The whole life of Sister M. Consolata, moment by moment, was a journey on the road of the exodus opened by the Lord for her and for many through her. That is, the "littlest way" of love and of the confidence that well explicates the evangelical passage that we've just heard (Mt 11,28-30), in which Jesus had exulted saying: "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the learned and the wise and you have revealed them to the little ones. Yes, O Father, because like this you have decided in your benevolence" (Mt 11,25-26).

Brothers and Sisters, this "littlest way" is that of which the Holy Father Benedict XVI had proposed to us in all of its greatness in the apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* with which he announced the Year of the Faith that we are now living. The door of faith, that introduces to the life of communion with God and permits entry into the Church, is always open for us and it's possible to go beyond that threshold, when the Word of God is announced and the heart allows itself to be moulded by the Grace that transforms. To go through that door implies to get into a walk that lasts your whole life: as this Pope Benedict in the *Porta Fidei*, but it is still the "littlest way" that a few days ago had been proposed again in the *Lumen Fidei* delivered by Pope Benedict and Pope Francis and by him made his and donated to the Church. Faith is born in the encounter with the living God that calls us and reveals to us his love, a love that seizes us and on which we can lean to be safe and build life; transformed by this love, we choose new eyes, we experiment that in it there's a great promise of fullness and it opens for us a glance of the future.

Priests, friars and nuns, the laity of today, whatever be the vocation that we have received in the Church, in the "littlest way" we have the most genuine road of the new evangelization of which the society has a great need: the new evangelization is fundamentally the presence of new men and women, of men and women that become new in the encounter with Christ, with the merciful love of Christ.

The man of our time, like the one of every era, but nowadays in a particular way, encounters the Lord not through who knows what inventions of the pastoral imagination, not through who knows which sophisticated technique of announcement, you'll meet him through the life of disciples changed in their encounter with Christ, in the confidence in Him, in the originality that begins from the communion with the Lord, in the strong desire, in the serious commitment and loving to be disciples: this is the new evangelization!

And so, with this atmosphere, to Sister Miriam Giusy that today solemnly professes her total donation to the love of the Lord, to what do we wish? Sister Miriam Giusy you go along the "littlest way", what do you want to do? You go along the "littlest way" if you want to be that which the Lord calls you to be, if you want to be in the Church, with your special consecration, missionary of the new evangelization. Because your profession opens for you a mission and the mission is that of the Church, it is that which the Church calls new evangelization and you are a missionary like me, like everyone: it's the new evangelization!

Sister Miriam Giusy I don't care what you will do, which duties will be assigned to you, what matters is that you live in every situation and circumstance, the Word of the Lord echoed a little while ago in the Gospel: "Take my yoke upon yourselves and learn from me, as I am gentle and humble of heart". Take my yoke, you are my brides, *jugum coniugium*: husband and wife are those that wear the same yoke; *coniuges*, you are my brides. Sister Miriam Giusy be the Bride of Christ, full of enthusiasm and love in you frailty, but in your devotion and be it also for us, because your consecration is public and it is for the whole Church. Through your consecration we are also recalled, in a strongly affecting way, to the baptism consecration, to the priestly consecration, to be this bride of the Lord: it's valid for everyone, in their different vocations, valid for everyone, his *coniuges*. Under the same yoke His that is not an image of the animal world, but is an image of people in love: *coniuges*, brides. "My yoke in fact is sweet and my load light".

Sister Miriam Giusy, the Church needs for you to live this, we have a need for you to live this, and your "littlest way" will be, like for Sister M. Consolata, the way through which many will arrive to drink at the springs of the Heart of Christ.

In the Holy Spiritual Retreat from the first religious Profession, Jesus said to Sister M. Consolata: "*You worry yourself for too many things; only one thing is necessary for you: to love Me!*". And he asked her for a continuous act of love with the invocation: "Jesus I love you" that Consolata will complete like this, as we know: "Jesus,

Mary I love you, save souls". All the souls of the earth, above all those far away, misguided, and lost.

Jesus on Holy Thursday of 1943 said to her: "To you I give the world of souls, so your love and your sacrifice is for all of them, for every single one. Like this the fervour that you put into praying for a category of souls, I will put the prayer for all the souls of the world, and I will multiply it in favour of each one...Consolata I want *urbi et orbi*. And I will multiply your prayer and immolation in favour of each soul of the universe, like when I multiply Myself in the Consecrated Hosts.

Dearest Sister Miriam Giusy, we, that is, the Church have need of this! Dearest Mother in the name of everyone, greet all of the Sisters of the Convent for us. Jesus Christ be praised.

