

TOGETHER pilgrims on the way towards MADRID 2011

Spiritual journey in the company of CA young saints

Sixth stage (November 2010)

TIME TO MEDITATE

Luke 23,35-43 • **WE THANK YOU BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME AMONGST US IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST; BY YOUR PRESENCE, YOUR SACRIFICE, YOUR BANQUET WE ARE ALWAYS INVITED TO BE UNITED WITH YOU**

"The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

How easy it is to think, openly or in one's heart, that he who suffers is responsible for the situation in which he finds himself; it is equally easy to defy him (if he previously had won) to show again his strength in suffering, if he is able to do that.

On the cross Jesus shows his silence when he is provoked. He says a word, and a word of mercy, only to the man who is ready to share his destiny, to join him, Jesus, as defeated and poor. The thief at his side does even more: he is aware that he is not even able to stay by Jesus's side; he rather shows he is even more defeated, more needy. Unlike Him he even unjust, a man who deserves nothing.

In reality, from the cross, Jesus gives His life because He becomes the broken bread to satisfy our hunger and the poured out blood to quench our thirst: the source and strength behind every sharing and every true communion. Without this Eucharist, which is born from the cross, none of us is really in a position to sympathize with those who suffer or to live in real communion with the poor. In front of every cross we all remember that we are always and only the good thief. It is Jesus who is the poor. We deserve nothing when we share somebody's saving suffering, it is not we who help others. This is true communion, according to Jesus.

IN THE COMPANY OF SAINTLY YOUNG PEOPLE



BLESSÈD PIERINA MOROSINI

Short biographical notes

Pierina Morosini was born in Fiobbo, in Albino, Bergamo, on the 7th January 1931. Towards the end of 1942 she joined the Catholic Action Female Youth Association as a child and grew up within the association until she became a fully fledged mature member. Her life was radically founded on faith: all her actions, her intentions, her entire days were inspired by her profound union with Jesus Christ and Holy Mary: morning-prayer, daily Eucharist and recollection were the order of the day of her short life.

She enrolled herself as a student in a Tailoring School and when she finished her training she started working as a dress-maker. In 1946, when she was fifteen years old, she was employed in the big Honegger cotton-mill in Albino which was a three-hour walk away from her home. On the way, she used to recite the rosary. At her place of work, Pierina made it a point to be always affable, open to her colleagues but at the same time reserved.

Between the 25th and the 30th June 1947 she went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the canonization of Maria Goretti: an experience which really touched her deeply. She confided to a friend: "How I wish to be like her!" In that same year, Pierina took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience privately.

She died when she was 26 years old on the 26th April 1957 as she was returning home from work. A blood-stained stone, found in the street near her dead body, confirmed that she had been attacked by a young man who had tried to rape her.

Pierina's words

Pierina's "small daily rules ":

1. I wake up in time, without lingering and, while dressing up modestly, I offer my day to Jesus through Holy Mary.
2. Morning-prayer, Holy Mass and possibly daily Communion.
3. Meditation of at least fifteen minutes; recollection, love, practical resolutions for the day.
4. I will carry out my chores at home and my duties at the place of work with great loyalty and calmness.
5. At the strike of every hour, I will think of Jesus and Mary by saying an ejaculation or through an act of love.
6. I will do every action in union with Mary and in adversity I will abandon myself like a child on her mother's heart, asking her for her help and for that of my dear guardian angel.
7. I will say the rosary or at least a decade, depending on the time I have.
8. Every day I will do my best to offer our Lady some sweet-scented and hidden "flower" (by mortifying my tongue, my eyes, my gluttony and above all my will).
9. I will never sit at table without having said a small prayer before and never get up without having mortified my gluttony.
10. I will do my best to smile at everyone and to surrender my will to others, especially to my parents and superiors, in an amicable way.
11. I will try to be modest in my way of dress, in the way I sit down and walk; I will never permit frivolous conversation and rough play.
12. Whenever possible, before going to bed, I will do some spiritual reading and write down the outcome of my examination of conscience. Having said my evening prayer, I will sleep thinking of the following day's Communion or of some other holy thought.

N.B. – I propose to practice all this faithfully, with love and joy but without any excessive preoccupation; ready to leave out any devotion or to interrupt it when my superiors or my duties so dictate, convinced that Mother Mary requests from me, her little slave of love, my heart and my will in all my life's circumstances.

Turning to a friend of hers during her pilgrimage to Rome, she said: "If you do not like this food, do not force yourself to eat it; our Lord does not expect the impossible from us".

A young person like us

«Having been brought up in a family which was deeply spiritual, Blessed Morosini followed Christ in His poverty and humility in the daily care she took of her many brothers. She discovered that "she could become a saint" even without entering a convent so she dedicated herself to the life of her parish, to Catholic Action and to apostolic work. Personal prayer, daily Mass and spiritual direction helped her understand God's will and her brethren's expectations and to arrive at a decision to consecrate herself privately to the Lord in the world.

For ten years she experienced the difficulties and the joys, as a worker in the cotton-mills in her area, working on shift and travelling always on foot. Her colleagues testified her dedication at work, her availability and her shyness at the same time and the esteem she enjoyed as a woman and as a believer. She was martyred exactly thirty years ago as she was going back home from work because she upheld principles which were coherent to her Christian beliefs. However her journey did not end here, because she still illuminates the way for all those who are fascinated by evangelical challenges».

John Paul II, *Omelia Homily at the Beatification of Pierina Morosini*, 4 October 1987