



**Mother Guglielmina Remotti**  
**The 'First and Solid Pillar of the Work of Love'**  
**of the Congregation**

Who was Guglielmina Remotti? - She was born in Sale (Al - Italy) on 15.9.1881 to mother Maria Antonia Giacobone and father Giacomo. She was baptized on 19 September 1881, in the parish church of S. Giovanni Battista

She wrote almost nothing about herself, but we know her through the testimonies of Rev. Father A. Boccio, of the first Sisters, from the minutes regarding the first steps of the Congregation. Guglielmina lost her young mother when she was only three years old and her little sister Giuseppina had been born just over a month earlier.

Both were entrusted to relatives. This situation prevented her from attending higher education courses, however - intelligent and strong-willed as she was - she managed to personally acquire a good general culture.

After five years, her father remarried and the second mom, Margherita Massardo, was truly a mother to the two little girls. The family lived in a small house built by his dad Giacomo himself, an expert master builder, in the alley of Via Giacomini in Sale. And in that house he died in the summer of 1923. A strong and hard-working woman despite her apparent fragility, Guglielmina, under the guidance of Mom Margherita, had started a real home laboratory - employing up to twenty young people - and there she displayed her rare gifts of creativity and good taste, to the point that her workers defined her: "a born artist, sensitive to all expressions of beauty".

The brush she had available every day in her laboratory was the needle: with it she created true masterpieces of embroidery and at the same time taught the art to the young apprentices who would make it a source of sustenance for life.

With simplicity she transmitted her knowledge to her disciples, and they left that house truly formed as Christian women, with a certain open-mindedness, and as expert embroiderers.

Some of them later followed her in choosing religious life.

Since 1919, while Rev. Fr. **Amilcare Boccio** was still at the front, Guglielmina organized the first meetings of the young women interested in the "**practice of union**", a prayer composed and spread by Rev. Fr. Boccio himself who, knowing Guglielmina's faith and commitment to Christian life, had always seen in her a valid collaborator to give life to that new Religious Family that the Lord had inspired in him.

After much prayer and reflection, Guglielmina also said her yes to the Lord, accepting the call to create the first group of those who would give life to the Congregation of the Little Daughters of the Sacred Heart.

She herself made her home available, a "Little Bethlehem", in which however the essential was not lacking: the desire to give one's life completely to know and make known, to love and make loved the Heart of Jesus.

Mother Guglielmina, after March 25, 1924, the day the Congregation began, immediately took on the role of Superior and maintained it for over thirty years, guiding the Sisters with gentleness and strength, a clear example of faith and active charity. She trained the Sisters in a climate that was laborious, yes, but also filled with silence, constructive, made up of normal gestures lived with awareness and grace, joy and freedom of spirit, always controlled in its manifestations.

In short, if Jesus was the model, each one had to conform to Him in thoughts, words and deeds. For this reason, the entire spiritual life revolved around the Eucharist, present in the Chapel of the house since January 22, 1925.

In addition to daily Mass, great importance was given to the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed throughout the day, also for the purpose of reparation, and set in shifts to be strictly respected. The chronicles underline on some occasions the prolonged exposure even during the night hours, with the commitment to repeat, at every hour, the Litanies of the Sacred Heart.

When some grace was truly 'urgent', prayer became the only force of intercession. The Mother often entertained the Sisters through personal meetings, conferences and - later - with circular letters or short messages that she sent to the interested ones at the right time, sensing their needs. His teaching was inspired by faith, but also rich in practical advice linked to the little things of everyday life that were to become innumerable acts of love to lead souls on the path of trust that has as its goal the Heart of Jesus.

The first group of Sisters lived day by day, trusting in divine Providence that did not fail to make itself tangible on a thousand occasions. Thus, prayer and work were accompanied by moments of recreation that relaxed the spirits and transformed even

the inevitable inconveniences of such a coexistence into sparkling mottos to laugh heartily about.

Rev. Fr. Boccio reached the community once a week - arriving breathlessly from Stazzano by bicycle - and was regularly informed of everything that was happening.

Mother Guglielmina, in addition to the spiritual formation of the Sisters, insisted a lot on behavior - on the 'Galateo', very much in vogue at the time - to be able to approach with kindness and fine education every kind of person they would meet in their mission. Another commitment was to find resources for the maintenance of a group of Sisters that was becoming increasingly consistent. A further boost was given to the laboratory and a little trade in silkworm cocoons - in use in the village - was started, but the parish apostolate was not neglected, better organizing the catechesis and the various branches of Catholic Action and also preparing Nursing Sisters to assist the sick at home.

Mother Guglielmina gave everything to her Congregation: her spirit, her mind, her intelligence, her heart, her commitment, her energy, her home... she denied nothing to her God, not even when the cross became heavier: tested in the crucible, she never let her interior torment show on the outside, she was always available to listen, to console, to encourage, to instill hope.

Her faith became the root of faithfulness and trust, abandonment, total trust, in a life completely fixed in God, thus fully realizing Rev. Fr. Boccio's invitation to be contemplative souls first and then active. Prayer was to be the first apostolate to be taught to the Sisters, a prayer formed in silence and recollection to live in profound union with God. Maternal solicitude often led the Mother to join her daughters in their work environment. Her visit to the branch homes was always a moment of celebration, an expected meeting experienced in a climate of fraternal charity. No situation experienced escaped the Mother who encouraged them to continue on the path of good, to do their utmost for the people entrusted to the care of the community, to collaborate with joy and availability with the priests. She wanted each Little Daughter to become a saint by faithfully living her own vocation, that each one would be luminous for the holy Church.

Thus, she lived until the last day of her earthly pilgrimage: with that total dedication that always distinguished her, she went to meet the Spouse so awaited and desired throughout her life, offering herself once again for the Church and for the Congregation. The last song that accompanied her was the Magnificat: a hymn of praise

and thanksgiving contemplating the marvelous works that God accomplishes in those who entrust themselves to Him without reserve, without ever withdrawing the gift entrusted once and for all in his Heart. Mother Guglielmina, eighty-five years old, returned serenely to the House of the Father on March 8, 1966, after having traced once again, on her deathbed, the ideal profile of the Little Daughter as she and our Founder had always had in their hearts:

"...I am all for you! Always, especially in these last days that make me feel the affection stronger! But I do not leave you orphans. Commit yourselves to becoming saints, shining for the holy Church, united in love for our Opera! Casual and austere, open and prudent, silent and active, generous, always ready for every need for the salvation of souls: just like the first times! I bless you all..."

Our Father could not have painted a better portrait of her when he defined her: "The very first and solid pillar of the Work of Love!"