



Memorial
of the Transit of the Blessed
Mother
Maria Domenica Brun Barbantini

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

Words of welcome

Dear sisters and brothers in the Lord, we welcome those who are present here as well as those who participate online. We are invited to pause, in a prayerful attitude, to commemorate the passing over of Blessed Mother Maria Domenica. Her shining example fascinates and engages us to walk the Gospel way of self-giving on behalf of our suffering brothers and sisters.

The flame of charity that the Holy Spirit bestowed on Blessed Maria Domenica continues to shine today in various parts of the world, through the women religious, lay associates and many collaborators, who embrace with us the project bequeathed to us by Blessed Mother Maria Domenica Brun Barbantini.

1. Song of Invocation to the Holy Spirit

(while some sisters and lay people lay candles in front of the altar where the remains of the Blessed Mother are kept)

Pause for silent prayer

Let us pray: O God, our Father, we want to give thanks to you because, through your Holy Spirit, you have shaped the heart of Blessed Mother Maria Domenica and made her an icon of the mercy and compassion of Christ Jesus, *"an authentic witness of a concrete evangelical love for the least, the marginalized, the wounded; a love made up of gestures of care, of Christian consolation, of generous dedication and tireless closeness to the sick and suffering."* Make us continuators of this mission in the ecclesial community and in today's society. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

2. We welcome the Word:

From the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom 14:7-9)

None of us lives for himself and no one dies for himself, because if we live, we live for the Lord, if we die, we die for the Lord. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be the Lord of the dead and the living.

The word of the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord with the Psalm

(Psalm 115)

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

I love You, Lord, you hear the cry of my prayer. You inclined your ear to me on the day that I called You.

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

Good and righteous are You, O Lord, our merciful God.
You, O Lord, protect the humble: You have saved me.

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

Return, O my soul, to your peace, for the Lord has blessed you; I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

I believed even when I said, "I'm too miserable." What shall I render to You, Lord, for all that You have given me?

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

To you I will offer sacrifices of praise
and I will call on Your holy name,
in the courts of the house of the Lord.

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

All my earthly pilgrimage

I deliver it into Your hands, O Lord,

I entrust myself to You who are infinite tenderness and mercy.

A. To you, O Lord, I will offer sacrifices of praise, and I will call on your name forever.

THE TIME HAS COME TO LET DOWN THE SAILS (2 Timothy 4:6)

(While reading the following text, it can be interspersed with the refrain of some songs)

Song: **Ubi caritas et amor**

Sr. Rosalia Batacchi shares how Mother Maria Domenica lived the last period of her earthly pilgrimage and her maternal care in helping the Sisters to live the moment of her departure with serenity and a spirit of faith.

In 1866 Maria Domenica fell into a serious illness from which she was relieved – although not completely healed – by grace attributed to the intercession of St. Camillus of Lellis.

In 1868, Blessed Mother Foundress, foreseeing the end not far away, intended to leave everything in order and repeated: "I do not want, my daughters, that you worry, I want to do what I can by myself".

In those days she often spoke of God and showed extraordinary fervor.... Some people had noticed in her for a few months a noticeable wasting with "noticeable change in her appearance: she was pale and very refocused".

"... Sometimes she liked to go for recreation, other times she loved to be willingly alone in order to be able to vent her tender affections with her God more freely. One day, when asked by her niece Carolina, "why didn't you want to be with us at recreation, she replied sweetly: "*I can't Carolina ... I can't hear noise... Go to the recreation room and have fun, I love to be quiet...*".

"I saw her very refocused and always moving her lips as if she were reciting prayers or talking to someone (this always happens when she is working and devoting herself to spinning her distaff, her ordinary work, that is spinning silk). She seemed to have

been penetrated by some sublime thought, her face was serene, calm, tranquil; I knew something extraordinary at that moment, and her spirit was right in heaven, where she perhaps planned to go soon forever. I sat all that time enjoying myself, in silence. Oh, how beautiful our Mother was when her spirit beheld heavenly things and was united with God! I can't describe it, you must have seen it as I did... (*Positio*, pp. 758-759).

From the complexity of emotions of the Foundress emerged an insistent anxiety about the future of the Institute; she said: "*We are in very calamitous times, and who knows how you will find yourselves... If God would allow you to be expelled from the Monastery, I would want you to have each one to live; But don't worry, I've thought of everything, I assure you, don't doubt even if I die you'll have something to live on.*"

Sr. Rosalia Batacchi continues: "Considering the last portraits in photographs that were done fifteen or twenty days before her death, her face had begun to swell." Indeed, in those times, one can see an alteration in the features of the face of the servant of God; The sweetness and transparency of the eyes are intact.

The Foundress' thoughts were always turned to her daughters, so she did everything to hide the illness that unfortunately she herself knew she had, and knowing how much she was loved by them, she understood what a state of anguish they were in seeing her in such painful conditions for her health.

On the morning of the 21st, the situation worsened; "Our sick mother gave no hope. From moment to moment she was nearing her end." She did not take her thoughts away from her daughters, "in the short period of her illness she was always present to herself, although she hid from her daughters the illness that tormented her internally, and striving to console them she was always observed cheerful, smiling, and active, in the way that the serious pains that did not leave her to torment her allowed her."

Chant: *Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo.* (repeat many times)

A pause for devout meditation

On the evening of that same day she received the sacrament of the anointing of the sick; And first she wanted to summon her daughters around the bed, who "gathered in her room and genuflected they asked her for her blessing for the last time; and she, with a serene face and gathering what little strength she still had left, in a firm voice spoke:

"My beloved daughters! In a few moments I will no longer be with you, for I am going to give a strict account to God of all my life badly spent. I ask forgiveness from all of you if I have not given you the good example that I should have given you, but I hope that you will make up for what I have neglected. Pray, but pray fervently for me, that God in his infinite mercy may forgive me my many sins, and that my soul may go to a place of salvation.

I recommend to you the poor sick women and the poor, assist the former and help the latter. This pious work founded by me preserve, preserve, and let it grow, and if by the merits of the most precious blood of Jesus Christ I am saved, my prayer which I will present to the throne of the Almighty shall be for the preservation and growth of the institute of which you are a part. I recommend to you the union among you and the charity towards the poor sick. Can you promise me? Promise me..."

The response was "a very loud cry." The vicar, in the name of all, replied: "Yes, our Mother, we promise you, yes... we all ask your forgiveness for the sorrows we have given you, and we promise you to observe the Rules." In the height of pain she repeated: *"I have always asked the Lord for so much love and so much pain... I don't lack pain, but love..."*

It was "nearing its end; the mind and spirit absorbed in God"; she was observed slowly raising her arm and making the sign of the Holy Cross"; the confessor, recited the prayers for the dying and, "from time to time whispering the Most Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and other words suitable for the extreme moment in which she found herself, and she said: "Bravo" giving with this a sign of appreciation of such comfort."

The moment came; "having just sounded 12 o'clock at night, with the utmost calmness and serenity she breathed her last...remaining with her face hilarious, her mouth set in a smile, as she had always been in life, even in her gravest disgusts and in her illness itself."

She died on the night of May 21-22, 1868, at the age of 79.

Oh Dear Mother, remember us... obtain for us steadfastness in faith, comfort in hope, heroism in charity. (Sr. Batacchi).

The Superior of the Religious of the Visitation Monastery of this city, at the hour when our Foundress expired, heard a double of bells so beautiful that she got up on the bed to hear it better; and with this she heard a voice that said: "Mrs. Barbantini

has passed away." In the morning she learned that at that very hour our Beloved Mother Foundress had passed from this life to eternity.

1. Because you loved me as you know how to love.
Because I lost my gaze in your immensity.
If you asked me who I am, I wouldn't say my name, I would say:
I thank you for everything and forever, thank you, thank you.
2. When I come to you, to your door,
I'm going to get lost in you, I'm going to get lost in you.
When you ask who I am, I will not say my name, I will say:
I thank you for everything and forever, thank you, thank you.

For the canonization of Maria Domenica Brun Barbantini

God, Father of mercy,

We praise you for awakening in the heart
of Blessed Maria Domenica Brun Barbantini, through your Holy Spirit, a
compassionate love for the sick and suffering. We thank you for her
extraordinary spiritual journey as wife, mother, widow, consecrated woman
and Foundress.

We pray to you, Father: grant that Blessed Maria Domenica may soon be
proclaimed a saint, so that all may be inspired by her journey of holiness in
following Jesus, physician of souls and bodies, and enjoy her intercession.

We ask this in the name of the same Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

LITANIES

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have Mercy	Christ, have Mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Father in heaven, who are God	Have mercy on us
Son, Redeemer of the world, who are God	Have mercy on us
Holy Spirit, who are God	Have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, One God	Have mercy on us
Holy Mary, Mother of the Lord, full of compassion at the cross of your Son	Pray for us

St. Camillus, our patron saint	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, model of virtue for all Christians	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, in love with the Lord	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, seeker of God's will	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, witness of the Lord's tenderness	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, Mother of the abandoned sick	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, consoler of those who suffer	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, vigilant presence among the dying	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, promoter of newborn life	Pray for us
Blessed Maria Domenica, generous apostle at the service of the Church	“
Blessed Maria Domenica, who, following the example of the Virgin at the foot of the Cross, dedicated yourself to the care of the suffering	“
Blessed Maria Domenica, woman of trust and hope	“
Blessed Maria Domenica, model of confidence and trust in God	“
Blessed Maria Domenica, model of silence and prayer	“
Blessed Maria Domenica, example of profound and joyful holiness.	“

Our Father

Blessing:

May the Eternal Father, the Divine Son and the Holy Spirit, the Triune God, bless us.

May the Most Holy Mother of Jesus and our most loving Mother bless us, protect us and console us.

May our Protector St. Camillus de Lellis bless us and direct our steps.

Final Song

Our Dear Foundress or other song.