



CORINNA ARRIGOTTI

Corinna came to the house of the Immaculate as a young girl. She was a single parent child; mother passed away when she was very young. She was a good musician and she came to study music. Corinna was ardent by nature and refined, but she was also very obstinate.

St. Maria Mazzarello understood that she was basically good and, in the near future, promising for the glory of God. In the meantime not wanting to manifest her conscience to a priest who knew her and under the pretext of being unable to express all the foolishness of her past life she absolutely refused to go to the sacraments. Mary Mazzarello was vigilant in preventing scandal. She prayed that the wild rose might soon be clothed with grace and thus surrounded her with affectionate care in trying to win her heart and move her with arguments of faith.

One evening when others had gone to bed she talked to Corinna and sought to break down the last resistance. Finally she tried to reach her through her heart by speaking to her kindly about her dead mother. Corinna began to weep at the thought of the void her mother's death had caused her while she was still so young. Then Maria said gently, "Supposing your mother was still suffering in purgatory and waiting for a good Communion from you, would you dare to refuse her? Purgatory is very painful you know. Could you with your good heart leave your mother in that lake of fire?" The young girl was taken aback and broke down. She promised she would do her duty and the following day, she was able to straighten out the entanglement of her confused conscience and make a good confession and communion.



Emma Ferrero

On the vigil of Our Lady's feast two sisters, Emma and Oliva Ferrero came as boarders. Don Bosco had sent them. Emma was already eighteen and very beautiful. She enjoyed dances, operas, plays and every pleasure in the company of high society, until, when her father came to Don Bosco for help. Don Bosco had offered to take the three daughters: the youngest in Turin under; the other two at Mornese.

Emma's soul was in a state of rebellion. When invited to go for confession, she refused with a disdainful ironic smile. The same attitude marked her participation in church services. Mother Mazzarello, Sr. Enrichetta (the boarding mistress) and Sr. Emilia (responsible for education) had tried to approach and pacify her, but she had rejected them with a shrug of her shoulders.

Things went on like this; she ate little, slept little, would not work or pray, irritated everyone, and interested in nothing but her trunk.

Sr. Enrichetta started to pay attention on her, yet suffered very much, because she felt she was in the presence of a soul who was resisting the grace of God. The more Sr. Enrichetta intervened in her life, Emma considered her as a threat. Everybody was praying for Emma.

Mother Mazzarello asked Enrichetta to accompany her to Bordighera while Emilia to take over the care of Emma. When she returned she saw that Sr. Emilia was able to reach Emma with so many human and divine reasons. She was able to convince her to make a good confession. Mother rejoiced at the news, and Sr. Enrichetta was relieved to find totally transformed.



Maria Belletti

Maria Belletti was a boarder from whom the community had feared and [for whom they had] prayed much. Sixteen year old Maria Belletti, had come most unwillingly as a boarder on November 3 1874. Her heart was already full of other ideas. An orphan, who through an inheritance became rich overnight, and gave herself up completely to pleasures and enjoyment, she went in for luxury in a big way. Very soon her affections had been won by a person who was taking advantage of her situation. But God had fixed His gaze on the orphan girl and providentially her relatives brought her to Mornese, to further her education and withdraw her from danger.

Her worldly ways showed how much effort her formation would cost. Though her heart was still unspoiled it was closed to prayer and to an orderly, virtuous life. The community started praying to St. Joseph for the necessary light to make the best decision. Meanwhile the educators closest to her did everything possible to win her trust. Sr. Enrichetta, who had charge of the discipline of the boarders, followed her day and night, and won her affection.

One night she wept in her sleep and when awakened began to shout loudly, frightening both companions and Sisters. She wanted the confessor immediately. She had dreamed she was being strangled by the devil for her sins, and nothing would pacify her except confession, even though the time was unsuitable. She confessed at length after many years and wept for the remainder of the night.

Next morning Mother spoke to her kindly, succeeded in calming her, accompanied her and guided her with patience. The fervent prayer and convergent action of the whole community brought about a gradual but real change of life in this suffering young woman.

