



The Holy See

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL MASS
FOR THE MEMOR DOMINI MANUELA CAMAGNI,
MEMBER OF THE PONTIFICAL FAMILY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would gladly have presided at the Funeral of beloved Manuela Camagni but — as you can imagine — it proved impossible. Yet communion in Christ enables us Christians to have a real spiritual closeness in which we share in prayer and in the affection of the soul. In this deep bond I greet you all, and in a special way the relatives of Manuela, the Bishops present, the priests, the *Memores Domini* and the friends.

I would like here to offer very briefly my testimony on our Sister who has departed for Heaven. Many of you had known Manuela for years. I have been able to benefit from her presence and her service in the Papal Apartments in the past five years in a family dimension.

For this reason I would like to thank the Lord for the gift of Manuela's life, for her faith and for her generous response to her vocation.

Divine Providence led her to a discreet but invaluable service in the Pope's house. She was happy with it and participated joyfully in family moments: in HMass in the morning, in Vespers, in the meals shared and in the various and important events of the house.

The separation from her, so sudden, and the way in which she was taken from us have caused us deep sorrow, which faith alone can console. I find great support in thinking of the words that form the name of her community: *Memores Domini*.

In meditating on these words, on their meaning, I find a sense of peace, because they recall a profound relationship that is stronger than death. *Memores Domini* means "those who remember

the Lord”, namely, people who live in remembrance of God and of Jesus, and in this daily remembrance, full of faith and love, find the meaning of all things, of small actions and likewise of important decisions, of work, of study, of brotherhood.

Remembrance of the Lord fills the heart with deep joy as an ancient hymn of the Church says: “*Iesu dulcis memoria, dans vera cordia gaudia*” (Sweet memory of Jesus that gives true heartfelt joy).

So for this reason the thought that Manuela is a *Memor Domini*, a person who lives in remembrance of the Lord, brings me peace. This relationship with him is deeper than the abyss of death. It is a bond that nothing and no one can break, as St Paul says: “[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:39).

Yes, if we remember the Lord, it is because he first remembers us with the love of a Parent, of a Brother, of a Friend, also at the moment of our death.

Although it can at times seem that he is absent at that moment, that he has forgotten us, in reality we are ever present to him, we are in his Heart.

Wherever we fall, we fall into his hands. Precisely where no one can accompany us, God, our Life, waits for us.

Dear brothers and sisters, in this faith full of hope that is the faith of Mary beside the Cross of Jesus I celebrated a Holy Mass of suffrage for Manuela on the very morning of her death.

And as I accompany with prayer the Christian rite of her burial, I impart my Blessing with affection to her relatives, to her Sisters and to all of you.

BENEDICTUS PP XVI

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