**LITURGY**

**242 Birth Anniversary of M. Maria Rafols**

**5th of November of 2023**

**INTRODUCTION LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

The Lord opens our lips, and we praise Him with gratitude for Mother Maria Rafols, who 242 years ago was born to life to be God’s blessing acknowledged today by the Universal Church.

Mother Maria Rafols loved and served God and her Sisters and brethren “with the greatest care, with full detail, with all love”. With her vow of Hospitality, she committed herself to live Charity… in a continuous and heroic surrender to the point of giving her life up. (Cfr. Const. 17)

Making grateful memory of her life, we pray that the Lord may grant us to be, as Mother Maria Rafols, heroic women in the Love, authentic Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne.

**PETITION LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

In this day of celebration, we thank God for Mother Maria Rafols, who shows us how to follow the Lord Jesus from Charity through the practice of Hospitality, “with the greatest care, with full detail, with all love”.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE EUCHARIST**

242 years ago, Mother Maria Rafols was born to life. Today, we celebrate in the Church that she was God’s gift to the world that, through her, knew about His Love and Mercy.

Mother Maria Rafols, enriched with the gift of Universal Charity through the practice of Hospitality, lived for others, appreciating every person, loving without limits, welcoming with detail, sensitive to the needs of others, available for any kind of service, being a maker of unity, peace and fraternity…

Mother Maria Rafols knew how to understand in the midst of unjust and violent situations; she did not store up grievances; she fought for justice, for worthier conditions of work, for better conditions of life for those whom she was in charge; she shared the same lot as those whom she served… All this in the heroism of war, prison and exile; and in the heroism of the daily service and community life.

Beside her sepulchre we thank God for the Life she sowed and cared for, which flourishes today in the five Continents, thanks to our Charismatic Family.

May, as Mother Maria Rafols, we walk day after day being aware, as Pope Francis says, that “love takes first place; love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love”, and we continue being, in this way, as her, Samaritan women.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

* We pray for the Pope Francis, Bishops, priests and deacons. May they accompany the People of God being good samaritan people, making a reality the “you did it to me” of the Lord Jesus. LET US PRAY
* We pray for the leaders of the nations. May, as Mother Maria Rafols, they live concerned for peace, development and welfare of the people, especially of the underprivileged ones. LET US PRAY
* We pray for those who suffer. May they receive the bread, the home, the health, the job, the peace, the education, the shelter, the dignity, the help… whatever they need for their daily living. LET US PRAY
* We pray for those whom we serve and for the people who share life and task with us. May they experience every day God’s blessing, through our being and doing. LET US PRAY
* We pray for those who feel called to the Consecrated, Priestly and Missionary Life. May they answer with trust to God’s call and be, in this way, Good News in our world. LET US PRAY
* We pray for our Charismatic Family. May we love and serve, as Mother Maria Rafols, “with the greatest care, with full detail, with all love”. LET US PRAY
* May the Lord grant us to see soon acknowledged in the Church the holiness of Mother Maria Rafols. LET US PRAY
* We pray for the Sisters, benefactors, devotees and friends of the Congregation, who already enjoy God’s Presence and who kept Mother Maria Rafols as their intercessor. LET US PRAY
* We pray for each one of us. May, together with Mother Maria Rafols, we walk being witnesses of God’s Love, makers of peace and weavers of fraternity. LET US PRAY