

## **THE CROSS AND JOY: THE VICISSITUDES OF THE SERVANT OF GOD ANTONIETTA MEO**

by Mauro Gagliardi

*Here Mauro Gagliardi, a teacher of dogmatic theology at the John Paul II Institute in Salerno, gives us a brief account of the spirituality of the Cross experienced by a very young Antonietta Meo. The witness of this little girl evokes a spontaneous question in the minds of many: "Is it possible that a seven year old child can have understood in depth and coherently lived the theology of the Cross?" And the answer is staring out at us in the Gospel of Matthew: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the child-like" (Mt 11: 25).*

*It is highly uncommon, even among us Christians, that this question is asked in an evangelically correct way, which would' be: "How ever can we,. with all our presumptions, understand and practice the theology of the Cross?"*