



*"Faith in the resurrection opens us
to fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death"
(RoL 24)*



Yesterday, 26 June at 10:45p.m.
in the comunità of Albano - Casa madre,
Jesus Good Shepherd handed over to the Father our sister

IMMACOLATA FRANCESCA MARRUCO

83 years old and 59 of religious life

During the Novena to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul while our entire religious family is oriented toward these Patron saints, silently and almost unexpectedly, Sr. Immacolata returned to Father's house.

Francesca was born April 2, 1929 in Massa Martana (PG) and was baptized on April 28, 1929. She comes from a large family, the fourth of six children, was educated in a Christian manner and matured the religious vocation in the assiduous participation to the life of her parish community.

She joined the Congregation on June 29, 1949 at S. Pietro alle Acque (PG), precisely on the Feast of the Holy Apostles and when the Congregation was just over 10 years of life. In the years 1950-1952 she was already engaged in the apostolate: at Tonadico (TN) as a teacher of embroidery and Lusina (RO) in the kindergarten.

On June 12, 1953 at Bevilacqua (VR) where she was sent for a new apostolic experience, she made her first profession and took the name Sr. Immacolata. Her first profession was done simultaneously with the first group of sisters who professed their vows among the Pastorelle immediately after the diocesan approval of the Congregation. Sr Immacolata remains in the parish of Bevilacqua until 1955. She was then transferred to Albano Laziale for a year and then at Cinte Tesino (TN) in the years 1956 - 1961. On August 2, 1958 at Albano casa madre, she made her perpetual profession.

Rather reserved in character, Sr. Immacolata is a woman of prayer who loved to work silently. Stands out in particular is her passion for embroidery done with rare artistic talent. An art which she taught willingly to young people who were in the several parishes where she was called to carry out the pastoral ministry.

From a letter sent to Primo Maestro in 1953 after her first profession, there are some aspects that describe her: *"My spiritual work is to acquire peace of mind because I get discouraged on some things, I am a bit scrupulous, I fear not being able to correspond to the graces that the Lord gives me, with this I do not want to lose courage and always to trust in his help and in his power."*

In the years 1961-1998, except for two brief breaks at Albano first as a student in 1961 and then from 1972 to 1975, Sr. Immacolata carried out her mission in the communities of the northern and central part of Italy, devoting herself with love in the education of children in different parish kindergarten schools: S Lucia Fiamignano (RI), Transacqua (TN), Peschiera Borromeo (MI), Diane S. Pietro (IM), Sestri Levante (GE), Bussi sul Tirino (PE), Bonavigo (VR), Sustinenza (VR), Albiano (TN), Cive di Correzzola (PD). They were years which flowed in the daily fulfillment of the mission in simple and quiet self-giving revealing the love of Jesus Good Shepherd in the midst of God's people.

She withdrew from the direct parish apostolate for health reasons and was assigned in the community of Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd in Negrar (VR) from 1998 to 2005 for some services. From here she requested a transfer of Province, from ICN to ICS, to be so much closer to a brother who lives alone.

Sr Immacolata thus was inserted in the community of Albano – Casa madre continuing, according to the possibility of her age and her declining health, to engage in those services necessary for the smooth management of a community, which houses mainly elderly and sick sisters.

Last March, following a fall, she was admitted to the hospital for a hip surgery. The operation was successful, but in the subsequent period of rehabilitation, her body already weakened by arthritis and other infirmities of age, she was not able to recover and few hours after her return at Casa madre, Sr Immacolata passed away in silence from this world and entered the community of the Pastorelle in heaven, surrendering definitely to Him whom she had always trusted.

Thanks to you Sr. Immacolata, for the love and fidelity to the Pastorella vocation. May the good you have done over the years shine like a torch before the Lord who loved you and gave himself for you, so now may have full Life in abundance.

Sr. Immacolata, we rely on your intercession. Even from heaven continue to intercede in silent and generous prayer for all of us and for the needs of humanity today.

We remember you while you are united with all Pastorelle who with you enjoy the beauty of the face of the Risen Good Shepherd and we rejoice while He surrenders you to the loving and merciful hands of the Father.

Sr Marta Finotelli
superior general

Rome, 27 June 2012
Sy. Cyril of Alexandria