



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



Today, 22 October 2020 at 2.10pm  
in the community of Negrar (VR), our sister  
**AGNESE SR M. SPERANZA LEONARDI**  
returned to the Father's House.  
She was 89 years old and 62 years of Religious Life

The words of the psalmist from today's liturgy: *Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just: for praise is fitting for loyal hearts*, encompass Sr Agnese's faith filled and generous journey; a life spent as a song of praise to the Good Shepherd who she loved and followed with joy.

Agnese, second of eleven children, was born on 10 April 1931 in Fiorano Modenese (MO) and baptized on 11 April 1931 in the parish of San Giovanni Evangelista in Spezzano (MO). She entered the Congregation in the community of Albano Laziale-Mother House, on 8 June 1955 and the novitiate on 2 September 1957. She made her first profession on 3 September 1958 and her perpetual profession on 3 September 1963.

Sr Agnese was engaged in pastoral ministry in the following communities: from 1958 in Paullo Reggiano (RE) and from 1962 in Ferrere d'Asti (AT) where she also carried out the service of superior. She engaged in educational ministry with kindergarten children, from 1963 in Bovara di Trevi (PG) and from 1977 in Medolla (MO). In 1989, she was in the community of Tor San Lorenzo (RM) for a time of sabbatical. From 1990, she returned to the community of Medolla, making herself available for various services to the community and apostolate, while in 1997 she was in Negrar (VR) for another sabbatical year. From 1998, she was part of the formation community of Mogliano Veneto (TV) and from 2011, she lived in Verona-Borgo Nuovo. In 2014, due to the precariousness of her health, she was welcomed in the community of Negrar until the day she died.

Sr Agnese has been described as a person of prayer, with a good character, of few words and deep interiority. She was wise, humble, simple, gratuitous in her giving, and able to play down situations. Indefatigable in the gift of self, she never tired and was always available for any need.

She had a great love for the Pauline Family to which other family members belong: Sr Cecilia, a Daughter of St Paul; Sr M Grazia, a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master and Francesco a member of St Gabriel the Archangel Institute. The sisters who lived with her in the formation

community of Mogliano Veneto testify that she was a point of reference for the young people, for the sisters of the community, for the disadvantaged and the elderly who she visited regularly.

Sr Agnese lived her illness with faith, serenity and in the daily offering of her suffering. We thank the sisters of the Negrar community who cared for and supported her lovingly during the long period of her illness.

During a canonical visit, she expressed herself as follows: *With the Christian religious vocation, I have been entrusted with the mission of pastoral care that stimulates and commits me to love and give time, efforts, and supplications for my brothers and sisters. Jesus Good Shepherd looks after me and sustains me in following him step by step to the end.*

While we entrust Sr Agnese to the Father's mercy, we ask her intercession for the Biblical Year, which we are going to live as a Pauline Family, so that *the Word may spread rapidly* through our life and the Pauline mission in the world.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes  
Superior General

Rome, 22 October 2020  
*St John Paul II*