



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



Yesterday 23 April 2017, at 10.15 p.m.
in the community of Albano Laziale - Casa madre

CARLA SR AGNESE SIMONOTTI

90 years old and 70 years of religious life
went back to the Father's house

For almost forty years, we have seen Sr. Agnes running along the corridors of the Mother house, always in a hurry for the sisters' needs, with that smiling look that anyone who met her felt welcomed not only by her, but by the Lord himself.

Humble, generous, tireless in self-giving, eager to be always useful, Sr. Agnese leaves us an image of a Pastorella fully surrendered to Jesus Good Shepherd, joyful and simple in treating others, always inclined for the good of the persons she met.

Carla was born on 24 December 1926 at Maggiate Superiore Gattico (NO) and was baptized on 25 December of the same year. The eldest of four children, as a child she learned the art of taking care of others starting with her younger brothers; an attitude that she has so developed to the point of maturing the choice of a state of life that would allow her to continue to put this gift to fruition.

Thus on 3 November 1940, she entered the Congregation in Genzano (RM). Here she spent part of the time of her initial formation, because in 1943, the war forced the Pastorelle to leave the house in Genzano to take refuge in Puos D'Alpago (BL). They were hard times all over the country, but Carla together with the Sisters and other young people were not inactive, rather they collaborated pastorally in the nearby parishes: Cornei di Puos, Farra D'Alpago, Chies D'Alpago and Voltago.

Returning to Genzano in 1945, on 29 May of the same year, Carla entered the Novitiate and on 30 May 1946, she made her first profession, taking the name of Sr. Agnese.

Forgetting herself, hardened by the trials of life, Sr. Agnese for the characteristics of her personality and above all for a solid spiritual journey, was chosen, shortly after her first profession, as Mistress of Aspirants and remained in Genzano until 1948.

In June 1948, with the opening of the house at S. Pietro alle Acque (PG), she was transferred in this community to continue the formation of the Aspirants until 1951, the year in which she made her perpetual profession in Genzano on May 30.

From 1951 to 1955 she was sent to the apostolate, first to Consandolo (FE) and then to Medolla (MO). In these communities, she lived with great charity her service as superior and in the apostolate she gave privilege to the poorest families whom she visited regularly, bringing them the comfort of faith especially in situations of illness and mourning.

The power of prayer, love for the Congregation and fraternal life, harmoniously integrated with the docility to the Spirit and the ability to see in everything the providential hand of God the Father, made Sr. Agnes a person capable of communicating the pastoral charism with that attraction typical of those who live firstly in themselves what they want to convey to others.

For this reason, on 13 October 1955 until 1969, she was sent to Brazil, first in Terceira Léguas and then to Caxias do Sul - Avenida S. Leopoldo, in order to carry out the formation of the novices. Thirteen groups of Novitiate were accompanied by her on the path of growth as "Pastorinhas". Mother Ines, as she was called in Brazil, was loved and appreciated by the young people whom she addressed without much words, giving them above all the example of a life spent for the Gospel.

Some Brazilian sisters still testify this today: "*Mother Ines has been very important for our formation, the journey and life of the Pastorinha in Brazil. They all remember her with immense affection and they still remember her teachings today. Witnessing, joy, availability, love for the Congregation and the Divine Shepherd. Blessed be the Lord for her donated, dedicated, exemplary life.*"

During her stay in Brazil, after her service in the formation, Sr. Agnese devoted herself to the pastoral care, especially among the most in need of evangelization. From 1969 to 1974 she was in Centenário do Sul in the state of Paraná; then at San Paolo: first in Jardim and then at Rafard

This is what a Brazilian sister remembers: "*Mother Ines here in Brazil was a joyful, serene, generous, dynamic, delicate, and attentive presence to us all. Her example was a testimony that encouraged us to persevere in the vocation, in the love of mission and the Congregation. Many thanks, M. Ines.*"

On 29 March 1974, Sr. Agnese returned to Italy and was sent to Camparada (MI) until 1978, where she dedicated herself to catechesis and in the assistance of the children in the kindergarten, while keeping the desire to return to Brazil.

From 1978 to 1982 she was in Albano Casa madre as superior. Since 1983 until yesterday, when the Good Shepherd finally handed her over to the Father, Sr. Agnese remained in Casa Madre dedicating herself with charity and spirit of sacrifice in welcoming the resident sisters and those who passed by. Grateful for everything, when asked how she was, she always responded joyfully: "*I'm fine*"; even if due to cardiac problems, her health was getting more and more grave.

And yesterday, the Second Sunday of Easter, Sunday of Mercy, in which the Passover appearance of Christ is remembered on the eighth day of the resurrection, Sr. Agnese passed away serenely and silently, immersed in that confident abandonment to the Lord with whom she lived all her long existence.

Thank you Sr. Agnese, for you had the courage to always walk in the safe paths as the Founder often told us: "*... the safe paths are the paths of docility to grace*" (AAP, 1958, 423). Thank you for the beautiful Pastorella whom you have been and are for each of us.

Intercede for our Congregation on the journey toward the 9th General Chapter, so that all of us may know how to walk in docility the safe paths which the Spirit will indicate to us. And do not forget to present to the Risen Shepherd the entire humanity in need of His peace!

Sr. Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 24 April 2017
St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen