

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



Today 3 September 2018 at 10:30 a.m. (Australian time) in the community of Bundoora – Australia, our sister **LOLA LINA SR CESARINA PAOLINI** returned to the Fathers House. She was 90 years old and 65 years of Religious Life

On the day in which our Congregation celebrated the feast of Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd, the Father called to himself our sister Cesarina, living what was proclaimed in the prayer of the Collect, *she listened faithfully to the Good Shepherd's invitation to follow him up to the pastures of eternal life.*

Lola was born on 3 December 1927 at Lentella (CH) and baptized on the solemnity of the Mother of God in 1928 in the parish of Mary of Assumption in Lentella. She was born into a large family, the youngest of nine children. She entered the Congregation on 7 May 1949 at Genzano (RM) and on the same year transferred to Massa Martana. She had her Religious Habit on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, made her first profession on 12 June 1953 at Bussi sul Tirino (PE), taking the name Sr. Cesarina. On 7 October 1953 in Massa Martana, after a course of spiritual exercises, Sr Cesarina together with a group of the first Pastorelle sisters made simple and public vows - remaining valid the date of the first private vows made a few months earlier. Immediately afterwards, she went to Polinago (MO) where she carried out various ministries: visit to the families, musical animation, kitchen, help in the kindergarten and *propaganda*.

On 27 October 1957, she made her perpetual profession in Albano Laziale, Mother House, and in December of that year, Sr Cesarina, at the age of thirty, was sent in the Australia, precisely in Carlton – Melbourne, to devote herself to the pastoral mission. At the beginning, she spent some time learning the English language. From 1964 to 1969, she lived in Thornbury (Victoria) and in 1970 in Stanthorpe (Queensland) where she was involved mainly in visiting families and in the

dissemination of the Bible. From 1971 to 2004, she returned to live in Thornbury from where she continued her ministry to families, the liturgical animation in various parishes around Melbourne and her tireless commitment to the Italian Charismatic renewal Movement. Starting from 2005 until the last days of her earthly life, she lived in Bundoora.

Sr. Cesarina in her mission as a Pastorella, felt the call to be at service of the Italian Charismatic Renewal Movement, thereby opening the way to many brothers and sisters to follow her on this journey, to grow in faith, in love for the Word of God and in the prayer of praise. At the heart of her "charismatic ministry", she was instrumental in forming more than 40 Prayer Groups in Melbourne but also in Mildura, Geelong, Werribee (Victoria) and in Adelaide (South Australia). She was committed in an extraordinary and admirable way to the study of Scripture in order to "break the Word" and she spent long hours to prepare well the meditations that she will share in Prayer Groups.

Sr. Cesarina has been described as a person of great faith, generous, strong and determined. She was able to ask for forgiveness and to give forgiveness. A courageous sister who did not stop at anything in order to help, materially and spiritually, often facing even personal dangers. Families, in particular suffering families, were always the center of her apostolate and prayer. A sister who was resourceful, creative, full of initiatives, and always ready to use the most modern means for the apostolate. At almost ninety years old, she learnt to use the computer, had a personal email and communicated via Skype. She even taught persons younger than her in the ICRM how to operate the computer. For many people she was like a "mother" and she touched the lives of so many of different nationalities and backgrounds, young and old, people who, through meeting her, came closer to God. Right to the end of her life, she was always available to receive, listen, guide and intercede for anyone who came to her. Sr Cesarina was a pioneer and a founder who contributed greatly to the development of our pastoral mission in Australia, also through the mediation of Providence for the construction of our two kindergartens and our houses.

Through Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd, let us give thanks to God for the gift of the life and vocation of Sr. Cesarina. Let us entrust to her intercession, the meeting on the Reconfiguration of Latin America that we hold these days in Colombia and in Brazil so that we may discern and adhere to what the Good Shepherd expects from us.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes Superior General

Bogotá Feast of Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd