



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



Today 13 June 2017 at 5.15pm.
in the community of Albano Laziale (RM) – Mother House,
our Sister **MARIA SR DOCILIA PEPPARONI**
returned to the Father's House.
She was 87 years old of which 59 years in religious life.

"I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on my lips" (Psalm 33,2). The words of this psalm shine in the life of our Sister Docilia, whom today the Good Shepherd consigned to the Father, in the joy of a life fully spent at the service of His Kingdom.

Maria was born on the 13 November 1929 at Pantalla of Todi (PG) and baptised on 1st December of the same year. She was the eldest of three children and lived in a very hard working family where she learnt to enjoy the beauty of the Christian faith and to love work as an expression of the gift of self.

As an adolescent, Maria with the spiritual accompaniment of the Parish Priest of her town, matured the desire of giving her whole life to the Lord. So she entered the Congregation on 18 March 1954 at Albano Laziale (RM) – Mother House. Here she spent two years of initial formation in preparation to enter the novitiate on 2 September 1956.

The following year, 3 September, she made her first Profession and took the name of Sr Docilia. A name which expressed very well the character of person who is docile, calm, quiet and honest in relationships. Sr Docilia loved poverty and always worked with earnestness. She was a person of sacrifice, with a strong religious spirit and knew how to root her life in Jesus Good Shepherd, since the beginning of her journey in the Congregation.

Immediately after her First profession she was sent for five years in the apostolate at Bevilacqua (VR) where she gained experiences in different dimensions of pastoral ministry: from liturgy to charity works; from the care of children to the visit of the elderly and sick. Her joy was giving herself entirely to the Lord and His people.

On 3 September, 1962, she made her Perpetual profession, and stayed at Mother House for a year of study, to then be sent in the apostolate at Cadeo (PC) until 1964. Here she devoted herself to visiting the families, especially the poorest and disadvantaged, to give them both comfort and support with some material aid.

Her apostolate in parishes actually ended in 1964 because she was called again to the Mother House in Albano, to devote herself to dressmaking; a very demanding work in those

years, because it required full-time availability, to sew the uniforms of many young women who were preparing to become Pastorelle.

Her sobriety and hard work are known to all Pastorelle who passed by Mother House, where sr Docilia lived most of her years of religious life, hidden and silent, under the gaze of the Shepherd Jesus who had captured her heart. Her love for the Congregation was expressed through the service as a dressmaker, which she expressed, without many words, what she had manifested in her youth: "I do not trust in my own ability but in the grace of God. For my part I have firm and resolute determination to be all and always of the Lord ", thus she wrote in her request to be admitted to the Perpetual profession.

In the most difficult moments, especially when gradually losing her sight and health, Sr Docilia never ceased to trust in the Lord and also to entrust herself to Mary, the mother of the Good Shepherd, to whom she prayed every day with the Rosary, while walking through the corridors of Mother House, recognising the Sisters by their voice.

The eyes of the body could no longer see, but those of the heart were increasingly concentrated on the things of God. While strength was declining, her prayer became more intense, both for the needs of the Congregation and the Church; and for those of humanity, eventually becoming a living offering to the Lord with all her life, as she always wanted.

So sr Docilia with serenity was delivered to Lord and silently left entrusting herself to Him with great humility, typical of a delicate and sensitive soul like hers.

A thank you to the Sisters who have assisted her with loving care and a thank you also to you sr Docilia, for your intercession before the Father for every Pastorella. We entrust to you our Congregational journey, certain that you will continue to speak of us to the Blessed Trinity asking for us humility and docility to the Spirit, to live our vocation not relying on our own strength, but in the fidelity of His Love that calls us to take care of His people, even in this complexed time of history.

We entrust to your prayer our 9th General Chapter, certain that you will intercede before the Father for our communion as we listen to the Spirit.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior General

Rome, 13 June 2017
In Memory of Saint Anthony of Padua