



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



Today, 1 February 2017, at 9.30 am
in the community of Albano mother house
our sister **ANNA MARIA SR FEDERICA CARLI**
has returned to the Father's house
at the age of 99 years and 70 years of Religious life

Jesus Good Shepherd has consigned to the Father the oldest Pastorella of the Congregation. Sr. Federica would have turned 100 years next August. A long journey rich in blessings of the Lord, of which she can now sing in fullness with the Psalmist: *"Bless the Lord, my soul, all that is in me bless his holy name"* (Psalm 102).

Anna Maria was born on 12 August 1917 at Rezzato (BS) and is the fifth of eight children. Was baptized on 18 August 1917 during World War I. She lived her childhood, adolescence and part of her youth in a family that provided a Christian education and in which she matured her response to the call, in the early days of World War II.

She entered in the Congregation on 30 June 1942 at Genzano (RM) and it is Anna Maria herself who says: *"I entered at Genzano in 1942. The difficulties at the beginning were many and varied. I occupied the time in various manual works in order to earn the bread which during the war was very scarce"*. Three years later, on 29 May 1945, always at Genzano, she was admitted to the Novitiate. On 30 May 1946 made her first profession and was given the name of Sr. Federica.

She was sent to the community of Massa Martana where she devoted herself to the pastoral apostolate for very short time, because, as Sr. Federica tells: *"In April of 1946, the Founder who had just returned from his trip to America, came to visit us and among other things said that we needed to open a community in Brazil and I had been chosen. In February 1947, with two other Sisters we left for Brazil to open our first house overseas."*

She arrived in Brazil on 19 March 1947 and for 45 years offered her life in this country which she has never stopped remembering and loving even after her return to Italy in 1992.

From 1947 to 1952 she was at San Paolo-Vila Mariana, mainly engaged in fundraising, in order to support the new foundation and was also responsible for assisting the aspirants and the economy of the young community. It is at this time, on 30 May 1951 that she made her Perpetual profession. Sr. Federica had a strong decisive character, right from the beginning she showed a great love for the Congregation and her vocation which she learned

to appreciate ever more while in Brazil. She loved praying and carried out whatever type of work asked of her, from tailoring to the management of a school.

From 1952 to 1957 in San Paolo – Jabaquara she engaged herself tirelessly in fundraising, an activity which she then carried out in almost every community in which she lived in her mission in Brazil.

From 1957 to 1967, Sr Federica lived at Centenário where she was also the superior of the community. Here for six years, she was the directress of our school. After a holiday spent in Italy, where she also helped in tailoring at Albano Laziale (RM) and participated at the first General Chapter of the Congregation, she returned to San Paolo – Jabaquara as superior of the community until 1969.

Sr. Federica was later sent to the community of Brasilia and stayed there for twenty years until 1989, as superior and Bursar; but she did not limited her services just within the community, but gave herself also in pastoral work, especially with the visit to most needy families. In her there is a strong desire to return to Italy, but the attraction for Brazil has the upper hand. Thus repeatedly she returned to Italy but then would leave again for Brazil.

In the last return to Brazil she was sent to San Paolo – Alto da Lapa, at the Provincial house, where she remained for three years before definitely returning to Italy. In 1992 she joined the community of the Mother house at Albano, and stayed there till the end of her earthly life, which took place today, for a cardio-respiratory arrest due to a sclerotic heart disease of which she had been suffering for over twenty years.

During the last days Sr. Federica, had been much calmer than usual and also accepting of the care that the Sisters lovingly offered her.

From the writings of her experience, especially in Brazil, which scored strongly in her life, she says: *"For the Congregation I gave everything with the help of Jesus, for the development of the Pastorelle; the energy, the ability and the goodwill for the sake of the Sisters. Glory to God for the good work and forgiveness for what I did not do for lack of courage"*.

Thank you Sr. Federica for your life spent for love and now completely wrapped in divine mercy. Intercede for our Congregation, along with the Pastorelle whom you meet in heaven, especially at this time of preparation for the next General Chapter.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior General

Rome, 1 February 2017
Vigil of the Presentation of Jesus