



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



Today, 9 September 2017 at 0.30 (Argentinian time),
in Buenos Aires, Argentina,
our sister **SR IRMA BEATRIZ DA ROSA** passed away.
She was 74 years old and 48 years of religious life

"I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good !" (Ps 53: 8). The words of this Psalm donated to us in the Liturgy today enclose the experience of the First Pastorella of Argentina and they express her surrender to the Father. A surrender which in this last moment of illness, she expressed it as fullness of confidence in God's mercy and daily offering for the needs of the Congregation and the Church.

Irma Beatriz was born on 20 May 1943 in Santa Maria - Misiones and was baptized on 28 January 1945. She is the second of eight children. She entered the Congregation on 18 January 1966 in Buenos Aires - Barcena and after the Postulancy, according to the practice of that time, received the religious habit becoming a "suorina" (a little sister).

She arrived in Italy on 17 September 1967 in Albano Laziale (RM) - Casa Madre, in order to prepare for the entrance to the Novitiate on 2 September 1968, along with other 18 young suorine of different nationalities: one of the first international Novitiate of our Congregation. Irma is described as *"a beautiful girl, with distinctly Argentine features, tall, slim, but above all ever-smiling and silent, rather shy but was always available in fraternal relationship and in collaboration. She acted with discretion in the group and expressed her strong practical sense and readiness to be of service to whoever needed help."*

Her formators describe her as a sister who *"loved poverty very much and was very generous. She loved the life of prayer life; welcoming and lived community life with serenity. A practical and orderly person."* In her letter of request for admission to First Profession, Sr. Irma wrote: *"I am really happy for my vocation and I will try to correspond with generosity. I am grateful for all the good received from the Congregation."*

She made the First Profession on 3 September 1969 in Albano - Mother House and in the same year she returned to Argentina in Buenos Aires - Barcena. As the first Argentinean Pastorella, she was a witness and protagonist of the first steps of our presence in this nation. In 1971 she was sent to Buenos Aires - Pompeya and in 1972 returned to Buenos Aires - Barcena.

On 3 September 1975 in Buenos Aires - San Miguel she made her Perpetual Profession. In 1978 she was sent to Buenos Aires-Lomas. From 1984 to the present, she is in

Buenos Aires - S. Miguel, where we find the seat of the Delegation and the Community of "Blessed Alberione" of which Sr. Irma is a member.

Sr. Irma is a person of great faith, simple, joyful, available, very helpful and capable of great sacrifices for others to the point of forgetting herself. She loved prayer very much and from the early morning she set herself before the Lord before devoting herself to the daily commitments which she carried out with great responsibility and quickness. Sr. Irma always remembered the anniversary of her Baptism which she considered more important than her birthday and continued to thank God for the gift of Christian life.

She lived with great zeal the pastoral ministry and every time she returned to the community from the pastoral commitments in the parish or in teaching catechesis in the parish schools or in the diocese, loved to share with her sisters the lived experience, especially with the sick, the families, the children and their parents, and other teachers. Esteemed by all, Sr. Irma remained humble and aware that everything is a gift from Jesus Good Shepherd.

I was able to hear her by phone last Monday, 4 September, and I keep in my heart her words of offering for the Congregation, her gratitude for the care of the sisters of her Delegation, and the trusting abandonment in the hands of the Father. We thank the sisters who assisted her with great dedication and love and also Sr. Irma, who leaves us a Pastorella testimony: simple, hard-working and totally surrendered to the Will of God.

Shortly before dying, Sr. Irma, aware that she is now ready to meet the beautiful Shepherd with whom she has spent all her life with joy, expressed thus, *"I will not spend the night because I will go with Jesus."*

As we entrust Sr. Irma to the mercy of the Father, we also remember in a special way, for her mother who is still alive, that she may find consolation in the faith, and we ask our sister to intercede for the journey of our Congregation in this sexennial where we are invited to welcome and live the gift of the prophecy of pastoral motherhood.

Sr. Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Roma, 9 September 2017