



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



Today, 12 February 2020 at 02.30 am (local time)
in the community of Grugliasco (TO), our sister

AURELIA SR MARGHERITA TONIOLO

returned to the Father’s House.

She was 85 years old and 60 years of Religious Life

The words of the psalmist from today's liturgy, *commit your life to the Lord, trust in him and he will act*, can encompass Sr Margherita’s path of discipleship of Jesus Good Shepherd, marked with essentiality and trusting abandonment to God’s grace.

Aurelia, the eighth of ten children, was born on 16 April 1934 in Longa di Schiavon (VI) and baptized on 22 April 1934 in the parish of San Giovanni Battista. She entered the Congregation, in the community of Albano Laziale - Mother House, on 03 September 1956 and the novitiate on 02 September 1958. She made her first profession, taking the name of Sr Margherita, on 03 September 1959 and her perpetual profession one 03 September 1964. In her letter of application for admission to her perpetual profession, she wrote: *No doubt has ever troubled my vocation, even though sometimes the service of God costs no little sacrifice. I have always trusted in the power of Grace.*

Sr Margherita is described as a faith filled and prayerful sister, positive and simple, quiet and meek, wise and not concerned about herself. She was available and attentive to the needs of others; kind and generous, optimistic and always smiling. She was someone who could coexist with her health issues with serenity. She was a woman of peace, who loved the pastoral mission and community life and did not shy away in the face of novelty. She felt at home in the old and the new. She was a Pastorella who was in constant search of the Lord. She could laugh at herself and not worry excessively in difficult situations. She was able to play down and see the positive side in everything. In a survey that asked: *Do you prefer to stay in a community of 3-4 people or would you want more members?* She replied: *The number is only relatively important as long as it is a real community.*

Sr Margherita spent her life in the following communities, many times carrying out the service of superior: 1959-1961 in Medolla (MO), engaged in teaching kindergarten; 1962–1967 in Lamosano (BL); 1968-1972 in Crosia (CS); 1973–1975 in Cadeo (PC). In 1976 she was in Albano Laziale - Mother House for a time to devote to studying. In 1978–1981 in Rho (MI); 1982-1989 in Villimpenta (MN);

1990-1991 in Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI), where she was mainly engaged in catechesis. In 1992 she was in Rome-Axa for a sabbatical year; 1993–1999 in Sestri Levante (GE); 2000–2003 in Capoliveri (LI); 2004-2005 in Negrar (VR) for a period of rest; 2006-2009 she returned to Capoliveri dedicating herself to the pastoral care of families, the elderly and the sick. From 2010 onwards she lived in Grugliasco (TO) where she was especially engaged in visiting the sick and at the service of Caritas.

One of her co-novices has told us how Sr Margherita knew how to enjoy all things, in fact, the expression that was ever on her lips was “how beautiful”. Furthermore, on the occasion of her 50th anniversary of religious profession, Sr Margherita writes a poem entitled "the first beautiful thing", describing in a verse the profound joy with which she lived her vocation and mission:

*Another beautiful thing is to feel being a Pastorella
with enthusiasm still inside my heart,
thinking of the church bell towers that wake up the sheepfolds
to make one flock and one Shepherd.*

Dear Sr Margherita, as we entrust you to the Father’s mercy, we thank Him for the gift of your vocation. We entrust to your intercession the faithful and joyful journey of every Pastorella and the gift of good and holy vocations.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 12 February 2020
Martyrs of Abitene