



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



Today, 21 October 2019 at 11:15 PM (local time),
in St. Paul – St. Joseph’s House (Brazil),
our sister

PAULINA, Sr PIERINA IOPE

returned to the Father’s house

She was 92 years old and 62 years of religious life.

With the psalmist we can say: *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel* for the gift of life and for the vocation of Sr Pierina as a Pastorella who, after a life spent in pastoral ministry, the Father called her to his presence.

Paulina, the seventh of eleven children, was born on June 13, 1927 in Terceira Léguas/RS and was baptized on July 16, 1927 in her native town. Sr Judite Tessaro, who knew her as a young person before entering the Congregation, as they both lived in St. Peter's in Terceira Léguas – Caxias do Sul/RS, narrates: *Sr Pierina was a descendant of Italian immigrants, her parents were farmers and Christians of great faith who had a big, very simple, humble and dignified family. Of the eleven children, one is a religious priest and three are religious sisters of different institutes.*

Paulina entered the congregation on 26 March 1952 in Caxias do Sul - Terceira Léguas and was in novitiate on 05 January 1956 in Caxias do Sul – Av. St. Leopold. She made her first profession on January 06, 1957 in Caxias do Sul – Av. St. Leopold, taking the name of Sr. Pierina, and five years after, the perpetual profession. On the occasion of the profession she wrote: *With the religious profession I have dedicated my life to Jesus a Good Shepherd, taking on the commitment to glorify God through the people .*

Sr. Pierina spent the years of temporary profession and the following three years in Rio Grande do Sul and later in Paranà, Sao Paulo and Brasilia/DF. The sisters of Brazil described her as: *A lively working presence, mission and prayer; a committed and observant person. She loved the Congregation and in the first twenty-five years of our presence in Brazil she devoted herself a lot to maintenance work. These were difficult times, with great challenges, in which there was a need of daring people. Sr. Pierina was a very zealous person for vocations, praying a lot and caring for them. She was a consecrated woman who felt a "belonging" to the*

Congregation and in her life she manifested a journey of great faith and trust in divine Providence. The spirit of "belonging" has spurred her to take on challenging jobs for the construction of the formation and assembly house. Many years of struggle, under the heat of the sun, the rain, the cold... but she, early in the morning would leave in search of Providence.

In the course of her pastoral ministry, a significant and fruitful time was spent in the Community of Imaculado Coração de Maria (Immaculate Heart of Mary) - Nucleo Bandeirante in Brasilia/DF. Here she also took care of those who lived in the suburbs before Aguas Claras and then in Vicente Pires. Sr. Pierina was particularly dedicated to evangelization and with the involvement of lay people in the aforementioned suburbs, which at that time were not parishes yet, faith communities were formed that grew more and more and with the passing of time became Parishes. The Bishop Monsignor Falcão entrusted to her the pastoral care on the outskirts of Vicente Pires, where she celebrated the Liturgy of the Word and administered the Sacrament of Baptism.

The missionary yearning and the spirit of donation that characterized Sr Pierina never left her, but allowed her to start a new journey in the in the district of Arniqueiras, also in Brasilia, along with other Pastorelle who had already begun the formation of the Christian community. A community which was given the title of *Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd* and where Sr Pierina continued her mission, fighting for the needs of the poor and forming them in the faith until her strength failed and in March 2014 was transferred to the Community of St. Joseph – St. Paul. We thank the sisters who accompanied Sr. Pierina with patience and loving assistance in this time of illness.

The Lay people who knew Sr. Pierina say of her: *God has poured many blessings for the people through your service. You are a bearer of the Gospel and with your own life you have gone further: you have consecrated your greatest gift to God, life; With your YES to God you have confirmed that you are a daughter loved by the Father. We are very grateful to be a part of your life in the service of God and the Church; you are the expression of love and dedication to others; you are a companion; you are loyal; from you we have learned love, the proclamation; your hands have always been available to help others; your sympathy and goodness have been captivating and have infected us; your love for the people has been unconditional.*

Let us bless the Lord God for this sister of ours who belong to the "group of the first hour", the first sisters who in Brazil lived the beginnings in faith and with sacrifice and transmitted pastoral zeal and loving belonging to the Congregation. We entrust to the intercession of Sr Pierina the outcome of the Synod for Amazonia to be an ecclesial event that opens *New Ways for the Church and for an Integral Ecology* and can find us, Pastorelle, ready to welcome that which the Holy Spirit will bring forth.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Adelaide (Australia), 21 October, 2019
Blessed Giuseppe Puglisi

