



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



Today, 10 December 2020 at 3.00am
at the hospital of Castelli (RM), our sister

PIETRINA, Sr MARIA MODESTA ALBANESE

returned to the Father's House.

She was 97 years old and 71 years of Religious Life

As we entrust our sister to the Father's mercy, let us listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah in today's liturgy, words which Sr Pietrina lived in a special way during the time of her illness: *"Do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isa. 41:11).*

Sr Pietrina was born on 07 July 1923 in San Pietro in Lama (LE) and baptized on 09 July 1923 in her hometown. She entered the Congregation on 21 February 1943 in Genzano (RM) and from 1943 to 1945 she was transferred to Valdicastello (LU). On 07 October 1953 in Massa Martana (PG), after a course of Spiritual Exercises, Pietrina, together with the group of the first Pastorelle sisters, made her simple and public vows in the hands of Blessed Alberione; however, the date of the first vows made on 25 September 1949 in San Pietro alle Acque (PG) remained valid. With her religious profession she took the name of Sr Maria Modesta. She made her perpetual vows on 09 August 1954 in Albano Laziale-Mother House.

She performed her pastoral ministry in various parish communities, carrying out various roles including teaching in the kindergarten and serving as superior in some communities: 1945 Marciana Alta (LI); 1945-1947 Capoliveri (LI); 1947-1948 Rio Elba (LI); 1948-1949 San Pietro - Massa Martana (PG); 1949 Tonadico (TN); 1950 Bussi sul Tirino (PE); 1951 Medolla (MO); 1952 Polinago (MO); 1953 -1955 Polpet (BL). From 1955 in Villamarzana (RO); from 1957 to 1959 again in Polpet. She spent some time studying while residing in Albano Laziale - Mother House from 1959 to 1960. She resumed her pastoral activity in Massa Martana (PG) from 1960 to 1963 and from 1963 to 1971 in Todi (PG), where she was mainly engaged in the pastoral care of families. She returned to Albano Laziale from 1971 to 1973 to attend a two-year study at the Pontifical Lateran University, obtaining a diploma in pastoral care.

In 1973 she was sent to Taranto in the popular district of Tamburi, where lived mainly working families from the ITALSIDER plant (currently: ArcelorMittal), the largest steelworks in Europe, inaugurated on 10 April 1965. The Pastorelle community became part of this reality starting from 17 October 1973, in the parish of Gesù Divin Lavoratore (Jesus Divine Worker), in collaboration with the parish priest of the time, Don Antonio Airò, a member of the Institute of Jesus the Priest. The Sisters worked according to the needs of the area. It was

a challenging pastoral reality due to the poverty and conditions of the workers. Sr Pietrina carried out her ministry mainly in the fields of education and catechetical formation, both highly appreciated by the people due to her high qualifications.

From 1998 she was in Catanzaro at the Regional Seminary of St. Pius X. While in 2011 she returned permanently to Albano Laziale-Mother House for reasons of debilitation, after long years spent in pastoral care. Sr Pietrina is remembered as a prayerful sister; joyful, generous and optimistic; someone who did not give up in the face of difficulties. She had a great pastoral love, having a particular care in the area of catechesis. She never wasted time. She was very active and enterprising. She liked to look after the chapel and the flower arrangements.

We thank the sisters who have assisted Sr Pietrina in recent years, in particular the sisters, who in this last period have looked after her in everything, staying by her side with love and generosity. We thank the Father for the gift of life and for the mission accomplished by Sr Pietrina. We entrust to our sister the journey of humanity called to go out to meet the Lord who comes so that humanity may be found ready to welcome him in humility and faith.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

10 December 2020
Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto