



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



On 28 February 2017, at 18:00 (Brazilian time)  
In the community of San José House in San Paolo  
our Sister, **ROSA MARIA SR. HERMINIA GOMES**  
has returned to the Father's house  
at the age of 77 and 54 years of Religious Life

*"Shine your light on our path, may your hand guide us to the Paschal goal"*. This is how Sr. Rosa Maria concluded with the lighted lamp her earthly pilgrimage on the eve of the Lenten period, listening trustingly to the voice of Jesus Good Shepherd who has led her to the eternal wedding feast.

Rosa Maria was born on 23 December 1939 at Itatinga – San Paolo, in a faith filled family, where she learned to give of herself with generosity even at an early age. Second of four sisters, among whom one was adopted, she was baptized on 3 March 1940 at Itatinga and was educated in the Christian life with much love.

She entered in the Congregation on 15 September 1959 at San Paolo - Jabaquara and was admitted to the Novitiate on 1 February 1962 at San Leopoldo in Caxias do Sul. Here she made her First Profession on 2 February 1963, being given the name of Sr. Herminia. After profession, she returned to Jabaquara.

From 1964 to 1966 she was sent to Guaraci and in 1967 to Regente Feijo where she carried out her first apostolate. On 2 February 1968 a Caxias do Sul she made her Perpetual Profession and remained for two years till 1970 in the community of Tercéira Legua.

Sr. Rosa Maria lived with profound joy her vocation as Pastorella in community life and in the pastoral apostolate. On several occasions she was also asked to be the superior of the community. A service that she assumed with responsibility and serenity, along with some other services internal to the Congregation, which during her life have been required, such as provincial Councillor, Secretary and Treasurer, at time in the school "Divina Pastora Institute", which belongs to the Province Brazil San Paolo "Father Alberione".

She was able to express her love for the Congregation and transmit it always with passion, especially to the young to whom she would narrate her vocational story, like a mother who talks about the wonders of the Lord to her children.

Many Sisters remember her with affection and gratitude as mother, sister, friend, counsellor. Joyfully and welcomingly, Sr. Rosa Maria, found time to give attention to people, despite a lot of work. She was sociable, able to relate to all, with great spontaneity and openness.

Despite the strong and determined character, Sr. Rosa Maria was always willing to progress in the spiritual journey. She loved prayer and was very sincere, albeit a little emotional, showing good common sense and doing well and creatively the apostolate in various communities.

From 1971 to 1976 she was at Centenário do Sul, she was then dedicated to Vocational promotion based at San Paolo – Jardim, till 1979. From 1980 to 1981 she was also available for teaching in the elementary school at Jabaquara.

From 1982 to 1984 she carried out the service as provincial Councillor and Secretary at San Paolo Jardim and in San Paolo Alto da Lapa; services that she also carried out from 1989 to 1993; and from 2001 to 2004. In fact, the Good Shepherd asked Sr. Rosa Maria to alternate times of service within the Congregation with full time pastoral care in ministry, changes that she lived with much ease and simplicity.

From 1985 to 2015 she was sent in different communities: Assis; San Paulo – Santos Apostolos; Jabaquara; Vitoria where, lover of the Word, devoted herself to the biblical coordination, the liturgical animation, a field in which she was well prepared, catechesis and formation of pastoral workers, without neglecting the youth. She also had a special care toward the Cooperators Friends of Jesus Good Shepherd.

From 2015 due to health reasons and cardiology care, she was at San Paolo in Casa San José. She lived entrusting herself to Jesus Good Shepherd, even in this situation she knew to offer her life, as the new pastoral mission that the Father entrusted to her. She lived her motherhood among the elderly sisters, with whom she shared the last two years of her life, until yesterday, when a sudden cardiac arrest, in the silence of her room, the Lord took her to Himself.

Sr. Rosa Maria, thank you for your life consumed in Love. Now you can enjoy the contemplation of the Face of Christ the Shepherd to whom we ask you to bring what the Congregation, the Pauline Family, the Church and humanity in our time have most at heart, that the Father who sees in the secret of the hearts, be known and loved. Intercede for us in particular for our next General Chapter. Thank you!

Sr Marta Finotelli  
*Superior General*

Rome, 1 March 2017  
*Ash Wednesday*