



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



Today, 15 November 2020 at 6.00am
in the community of Mother House – Albano Laziale, our sister
MARIA MADDALENA, Sr VALENTINA FARCI
returned to the Father's House.
She was 91 years old and 62 years of Religious Life

At the dawn of the Lord's Day, like St. Mary Magdalene, our sister heard the voice of the Risen One, a voice that called her to his Presence. Sr Valentina, as the *wise woman who fears the Lord and walks in his ways*, has awaited in faith the encounter with the Good Shepherd and, as a *"good and faithful servant"*, we believe that she is in the joy of the Lord, having loved and witnessed charity in action to the end.

Maria Maddalena was born on 02 February 1929 in Villasimius (CA) and baptized on 14 February of the same year in the parish Church of Villasimius dedicated to St Raphael the Archangel. She entered the Congregation in Albano Laziale - Mother House on 15 March 1955 and in the novitiate on 02 September 1957. She made her first profession on 03 September 1958, taking the name of Valentina. In applying for perpetual profession, which she made on 03 September 1963, she wrote: *I am happy to belong forever to my dear Institute that I have always loved. I thank the Lord who gives me the grace to take this step, not only without the slightest doubt, but with a heart full of joy and gratitude for having called me to his special service.*

Straight after her first profession, Sr Valentina was sent for the pastoral mission in various communities in Italy and performed various roles. In 1958, for about a year, she was in the community of Avellino - Borgo Ferrovia to do her internship in kindergarten. In October 1959, she was sent to Fonnì (NU) where she was also superior of the community. In 1966, she returned to Albano Laziale - Casa Madre for a short period dedicated to studying, and then went to Camparada (MI). From 1968, in addition to being engaged in pastoral ministry in Foggia - Saint Paul, she was also superior of the community; from 1969, she was in Massa Martana (PG); from 1972 in Cesano Maderno (MB) and from 1975, in Castellammare - Annunziatella (NA). She returned to Albano Laziale - Mother House in 1978 to obtain the diploma in general nursing. From 1979 to 1981, she was in the community of Caltagirone (CT), making herself available for any needs.

From 1981, she was in Reggio Calabria, mainly engaged in parish catechesis; from 1983 in Sant'Angelo di Celle (PG), dedicated to pastoral care as well as being the superior of the community. From 1988, she returned to Avellino - Borgo Ferrovia to fulfill various tasks; from 1992 in Albano Laziale - "Casetta"; from 1993 in Massa Martana to teach in the kindergarten. From 1998 in Albano Laziale - "Casetta"; while from 1999 in Samassi (CA) she was involved in pastoral care of families. From 2002, she was in Albano Laziale in the Provinciate and from 2004 in Albano Laziale - Mother House, where she gave herself to the last, in love and service to the sisters.

Only a few days ago, upon testing positive for Covid 19, she manifested feverish symptoms, received all the necessary medical care at home, under the attentive attention of the general practitioner, cared for with love by the sisters and external staff who collaborate in assisting the sick. We thank the community of Albano and the sisters who have assisted her in recent days. We are one with them in what is a very painful goodbye because done at a distance due to the health measures in place in the Lazio Region.

Sr Valentina loved prayer and was a hard worker, with a happy, open and good character. She loved beauty. She was attentive to details, especially when she was asked to welcome people. She loved the Congregation, making use of her gifts of nature, grace and culture in every pastoral area entrusted to her, in teaching as well as in community services both as superior and as dressmaker. This latest skill, she put into use for the mission in Albania teaching girls sewing. She gave herself up to the last days serving the community and was very happy to be useful to the sisters in different ways. She did not want to be a burden to anyone and did not make any of the services requested of her weigh in the least, but she performed them gratuitously and responsibly, with generosity and much joy. In the finalized visit of last September, she expressed the joy of belonging to the Good Shepherd and gratitude for all that she experienced as a Pastorella. She said she was ready for the encounter with the Lord, in his time, ready to do his will, certain that his will is one of love.

Dearest Sr Valentina while we entrust you to the Father's mercy, we think of you in his presence as an acceptable offering, as described today in the Office of Readings by Saint Augustine: *These are the offerings most pleasing to God: mercy, humility, confession, peace, charity. These are the things that we must carry in us.*

Intercede for us and for all of humanity, in this time of pandemic, a heart rich in mercy, humility and charity in action that makes us one with those in need and vigilant ready for the coming of the Lord!

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 15 November 2020
XXXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time