



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



Yesterday, 15 May 2015, at 9.15 p.m.
at the Sacro Cuore Hospital of Negrar

SR EMANUELA ROSA GIOVANNA TONON

returned to the Father's house.

She was 86 years old and 62 years of religious life.

On the first day of the Pentecost Novena, on the eve of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, when the Liturgy of the Word reminds us that by now no one can take away our joy (cf. Jn. 16:22), Jesus Good Shepherd presents to the Father our sister Emanuela, so that he may welcome her in the full joy of his mercy .

Rosa Giovanna was born on 10 March 1929 in Conegliano Veneto (TV), in a large family typical of the Veneto hills, where along with the scent of wine, is breathed a genuine Christian faith. Fifth of seven children, she was baptized on 17 March. Her vocation matured in the parish setting where she went assiduously, first with her family and then as a young woman who learned to enjoy the things of God.

On 1 May 1950, she joined the Congregation in S. Pietro alle Acque (PG), where she took her first steps toward religious consecration. She was then sent to the apostolate in Bonavigo (VR), where on 12 June 1953, made the first profession taking the name Sr. Emanuela. Her first profession was done simultaneously with the first group of sisters who professed their vows among the Pastorelle, immediately after the Diocesan approval of the Congregation.

She remained in Bonavigo until 1956 as a teacher in kindergarten, and one year in Polpet (BL), and then was called to Albano Casa Madre in Albano (RM), where she made the Perpetual profession on 2 August 1958 .

Sr. Emanuela, of good and meek character, usually silent, is particularly sensitive toward the weak, for this she was asked to remain at Albano for two years to help in the Regina Apostolorum Hospital.

In 1959, she was transferred to Massa Martana (PG) where she remained for ten years, devoting herself to the education of children in kindergarten, visiting the families and the sick and also in the loving care of the community as superior. In a dialogue on pastoral ministry, Sr. Emanuela expressed herself: *" May the Lord give me more openness at the service of the parish, bringing relief, comfort to the elderly and the needy, bearing witness to his love through prayer, with a word and an affectionate smile to the most needy."*

From 1969 to 1982 she was at Pieve d' Alpago (BL) as superior, dedicated also in pastoral activity, especially in catechesis and toward the poorest families. She spent a year in Transacqua (TN) as a teacher in kindergarten, then returned to Albano Casa Madre for a period of renewal, until 1985. That same year she was transferred to the Provincial house of ICN, in Verona- Borgo Nuovo.

Here, Sr. Emanuela dedicated about thirty years of her life in the service of welcoming the sisters who came to the Provincial house. A discreet, accurate service capable of expressing love in the care of small detail: from the ironing of clothes to perfection, to the flower that adorns the table with creativity; the prayer offered for the needs of the Congregation and the Church, to the smile offered even when she began to feel the weight of ageing. Rather with frail constitution, for several years, Sr. Emanuela suffered of heart disease, which was periodically monitored by doctors, never complaining, continuing to be committed with great generosity to her service, always done with love.

In November 2013, following a bad fall, she was constrained to move into the community of Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd in Negrar (VR), with the hope of recovering soon to return to her service. But age and health conditions increasingly precarious that required continuous control and even hospital recovery hindered her to get better. Indeed, at every relapse she became ever more weak and fragile.

In the last meeting I had with her during the Canonical visit last February, she confided to me that she felt she was ready and was waiting for the Lord, almost impatient because it seemed He would not come. So Sr. Emanuela passed away peacefully handing over herself to the love of the Holy Trinity, actualizing what she had expressed in her writings in 2010: *"The Lord renews in me the Spirit, discovering more and more that only in Him I find true joy. I can feel the Lord's presence in me, He gives me strength and light."*

Thank you, Sr. Emanuela, for your testimony as simple and joyful Pastorella, for your welcoming attitude toward all. Thank you for having promised that you would continue to pray for the Consecrated Life, for our Congregation, for the Church and for the Pauline Family. We count on this!

Sr Marta Finotelli
superior general

Verona, 16 May 2015
Eve of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord