



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



Today, 20 September 2016 at 0.12  
in the community of Casa madre, Albano Laziale (RM)

**ANTONIETTA SR. GIANNINA ZONCHELLO**

went back to the Father's house.

She was 90 years old and 58 years of religious life

*"The Lord always sow his Word; He only asks for an open heart to listen to it and the willingness to put it into practice"* we find these words of Pope Francis embodied in our sister Giannina who today, when the Church invites us to remember the Korean martyrs, the Good Shepherd entrusts her to the Father to receive the reward of a life lived in faithfulness.

Antonietta was born on 17 January 1926 in Sedilo (Oristano) and was baptized on January 25 of that year and confirmed on 3 June 1934. Second of seven children, three sisters and three brothers, she was raised in the Christian faith. She devoted with loving care to her family of origin in which in adulthood, she matured religious vocation.

She entered the Congregation on 30 December 1954 in Albano Laziale - Casa madre and was admitted to the Novitiate on 2 September 1957. On 3 September 1958, she made her first profession and took the name of Sr. Giannina. She was immediately sent to Lusia (RO) where she devoted herself to the parish kindergarten as a assistant teacher, but above all, she carried out her pastoral ministry in catechesis. Here she stayed until 1963, the year in which she made her Perpetual Profession on 3 September in Albano.

On that occasion she wrote thus: *"Humanly speaking, I feel unworthy of such grace, however I trust much in the divine help, for my part I commit myself to a greater and more generous response to the divine will."*

Sr. Giannina lived her consecration to Jesus Good Shepherd in this spirit to the end. A person of strong character and determined in her choice, she lived generously everything of what she thought was for the good of the community and of the Church. Her lifestyle is simple, marked with fidelity to prayer and the observance of poverty. Even in the apostolate she sought to give the best of herself, both in the education of children and in the visit to their families. In the communities, she also carried out manual work, such as sewing and cooking.

For almost fifteen years, from 1964 to 1978, she carried out the ministry of pastoral care in different communities: Foggia - St. Paul Parish, Saliceto Panaro (MO), S. Maria in Fabriago (RA), Todi (PG), Cervia (RA), Soave Mantovano (MN) and Fonnì (NU).

Since the end of 1978, she was at Albano – Casa madre to provide assistance to the sick sisters and brought to fruition the nursing degree which she obtained that same year. In Casa madre, for nearly forty years, she gave her utmost, together with other sisters in the different services that were asked from them. Sr. Giannina carried out also the nursing service for some years in the Regina Apostolorum Hospital, until she herself needed to be cured.

In fact her health gradually deteriorated, first due to heart problems and then for a surgery which she faced with serenity and surrender to the will of God. In early July, she was admitted to the Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano for intestinal obstruction and underwent an emergency surgery following an intestinal perforation due to a colonic neoplasm, a lymphoma of the intestinal wall which manifested no sign hope of recovery. In fact, after returning from the hospital, she remained bedridden needing constant care.

Sr. Giannina remained conscious of her situation until the end. On the last night of her earthly existence, she prayed at length although with difficulty and she passed away silently, almost on tiptoe, grateful for the long life which the Lord has given her.

Thank you, Sr. Giannina! Now you can see actualized your trust to meet the Lord, He whom you have constantly sought, doing everything only and always for Him, remember us Pastorelle, all the members of the Pauline Family and in particular, intercede to the Father, for the gift of true peace to our world, according to the intentions of the Pope and those who are united in prayer in Assisi precisely today.

*Sr. Marta Finotelli*  
superior general

Camaldoli (AR), 20 September 2016  
*Feast of Sts. Andrew Kim Tageon, Paul Chong Hasang  
and Korean martyrs*