



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



Yesterday, 26 May 2016 at 1:30 p.m. (Italian time)  
in the community of Negrar (VR),

**MARIA MARGHERITA SR NICOLINA SQUARZON**

returned to the Father's house.

She was 79 years old and 57 years of religious life

On the day when the Church, in some localities, celebrates the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, our sister Nicolina concludes her earthly life to enter definitively into the communion of the Holy Trinity.

Maria Margherita was born on 4 April 1937 in Longa di Schiavon (VI), in a Venetian family of simple and solid Christian life, where as a child, lived the joy of belonging to Christ. Second of three children, she was baptized on 8 April 1937. She grew serenely and participated enthusiastically in the life of the parish community, where under the guidance of her Parish Priest, she developed the gift of Baptism and matured in her religious vocation. She visited the Pastorelle and felt attracted by their vocation to follow Jesus Good Shepherd in the midst of God's holy people.

Thus on 14 April 1955 she entered the Congregation and after the time of Postulancy, on 2 September 1957 she began the Novitiate in Casa madre of Albano (RM). She made her first profession on 3 September 1958, taking the name of Sr. Nicolina. Her enthusiasm was contagious to the point that later her sister Giuseppina entered the Congregation too, and she become a sister not only by blood but by vocation.

Immediately after profession, she was sent to the community of Capoliveri (LI), in the Island of Elba, where she devoted herself to the pastoral, with special care in catechesis to young people. On 3 September 1963 at Albano, she made her perpetual profession, and soon after was transferred to the community of Soave Mantovano (MN) where she remained until 1966.

Sr. Nicolina is a person with a great practical sense, creative, hard-working and dynamic. She knew how to make herself loved for her kindness and spirit of service, both from the sisters and the persons whom the Lord entrusted to her. She also lived her service of animation as superior of the community with generosity and spirit of sacrifice.

For forty years, from 1966 to 2006, she gave herself tirelessly especially in the education of new generations. She taught in the parish and public kindergarten. Wherever she carried out her pastoral ministry, she was appreciated for her pastoral care toward persons and families and for her love for the liturgy which she animated with passion. In fact she was

assigned in the communities of S. Prospero sulla Secchia (MO), Gizzeria (CZ), in the public kindergarten school in Albano Laziale (RM) and Sustinenza (VR) until 1997.

In 1998, she left teaching to devote herself to the pastoral in its various forms, but with particular attention to visiting families in the communities of Villimpenta (MN), Manzinello Manzano (UD), Oleis (UD) and Novoledo (VI).

With an unusual sensitivity, during summer time, she made herself an instrument of "providence", in order to facilitate the participation of young people, the poor, to the youth camps organized by the Congregation. She collected provision of food, clothing, material for games and many other useful things, which she herself further embellished with creativity and gave especially to those in greatest need. She also organized bazaars for the missions, putting at the service her art as a seamstress, involving in sewing or crocheting work the youth and women of the parish.

She expressed her love for the Institute in different ways, even when in 2006 she had to leave the direct apostolate, to devote herself to the sick sisters in the community 'Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd' of Negrar (VR). Here too, until she was capable, tried to give the best of herself, taking care, in particular, of her sister, Sr. Giuseppina, also a Pastorella, who is in the same community, due to an illness and needs assistance. In this community, along the past decade, Sr. Nicolina coexisted with *polycythemia vera*, a rare cancer of the blood, which weakened her more and more, even though she learned to manage her illness in the normality of daily life. Lately, however, she was in condition of complete infirmity and following a lung inflammation, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest in cerebral stroke.

In her request to admittance to perpetual profession in 1963, Sr. Nicolina wrote: *"Conscious of the commitment that I take before God and to the Congregation, I expect by His grace, help to persevere faithful unto death."* This has been heard and she passed away gently, confident of being welcomed by the Good Shepherd.

Yes, dear Sr. Nicolina, Jesus Good Shepherd has kept you with loving care until the end, making you faithful to the Pastorella vocation that you so loved. Now you can sing fully with the Psalmist: *"I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name. My soul shall be sated as with choice food, with joyous lips my mouth shall praise you! forever."*

Thank you Sr. Nicolina, now intercede to the Father for all of us Pastorelle, a renewed creative fidelity to the pastoral charism, as we begin preparing our 9th General Chapter.

Sr Marta Finotelli  
*superior general*

São Paulo, 27 May 2016  
Friday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time