



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



On 28 December 2013, at 23.05 (Italian time)

In the Community of Negrar (VR),

ANNA MARIA SR PAOLA ZAMPINI

our Sister, has returned to the Father's house
at the age of 74 and 52 years of Religious Life

“Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on Earth to men and women loved by God!” (Luke 2.14). The singing of the multitude of the heavenly host praising God in this atmosphere of Christmas, the first Vespers of Sunday, dedicated to the Holy family, our Sister Paola concludes her earthly life and is presented to the Father by Jesus Good Shepherd to celebrate his eternal wedding, as Pastorella faithful to the vocation and generous in service.

Anna Maria, the eldest of three daughters, was born on August 5, 1939 at Quinzano (VR), under the patronage of our Lady of the Snow. Christened on 13 August of that year, grew up in a deeply Christian family where she breathed the most precious values of life and matures in the religious vocation. In the parish of origin, she followed with love the initiatives of the Christian community and endeavours as a Catechist to communicate the faith to the new generations. It is in this context that the young woman in her twenties decides to enter the Congregation on January 3, 1959. She entered the Novitiate on September 2, 1960 at Albano Laziale (RM) and made the first profession on September 3, 1961 taking the name of Sister Paola. Five years later, again at Albano, she made her perpetual profession.

Since the application for admission to the Vestition, the young Anna Maria is well aware of her choice: *"I enthusiastically received the divine call and tried to treasure formation that was given to me with lots of love. I desire to correspond with fidelity to such grace and love of Jesus Good Shepherd and trusting always in divine mercy. I am happy to be included in this Congregation where the ideal of holiness is achieved in collaboration with the pastoral zeal ... May the Divine Shepherdess, in whose hands I entrusted my intentions obtain for me the grace to persevere in God's will ... "*

Of good character and reserved, with a speculative and practical intelligence, Sr. Paola succeeded well in her study, music, poetry and song: gifts that she placed also at the service in the liturgical animation during the periods in which she carried out the parish apostolate.

A lover of the Word of God who listens with an open heart, Sr. Paola cultivated a deep spiritual life that shined through in everything she did: from small community services to commitments of specific responsibilities as Formation assistant. In fact, in two different periods: from 1961 to 1965 at Albano and from 1967 to 1968 in Camparada (MI) she is the assistant to the young Immacolatine .

Generous to progress in every respect, she expressed in many ways her love for the Congregation giving herself in every task that is assigned to her. Sr. Paola is known in the whole Congregation for the valuable service as Secretary General carried out with loving dedication, discretion and accuracy for three consecutive terms, from 1982 to 1999. Her shyness lead her to live rather behind the scenes, but always with tireless generosity and in an orderly, methodical and precise manner.

From 1965 to 1966 she carried out her internship at the kindergarten of Cinte Tesino (TN); from 1968 to 1976 she lived in the community of Reggio Calabria where she taught in the elementary school and devoted herself to catechesis and liturgical animation. She loved fraternal life and it was a joy to be in her company. As superior of the community with care she was dedicated to each Sister showing attention and a silent sincere welcome to all.

In 1976 she is transferred to Rivalta sul Mincio (MN) until 1979; later at Soave Mantovano (MN) where she helped with an accurate service even in the Secretariat of the IMF until 1982, the year in which she was asked to assume the commitment in the General Secretariat.

Appreciated and respected inside and outside the Congregation, Sr. Paola concluded her "pasturing" as General Secretary in 1999 and was sent to the community of Negrar (VR). Here, after a few months, she was visited by illness which she lived confidently, offering herself to God's will. She remained in this community, dedicating herself to the spiritual animation of the Sisters until 2009, the year in which she is requested to be responsible for the Secretariat in the Province.

She welcomed with joy and availability the responsibility to which she is dedicated, alternating with the assistance to her elderly mother, until the lung cancer, which seemed to be eradicated, reappeared in all its gravity. Sr Paola resumes with a lot of confidence the therapies that, unfortunately, did not produce the desired effects. Assisted with love by the Sisters of the community of Negrar, she surrendered peacefully into the arms of the Lord, contemplated in the mystery of his Incarnation.

At the beginning of December, in the visit made to Sr. Paola, at the Hospital of Negrar, with almost the same words used in her application for admission to Perpetual Profession, she said to me: "*The Lord has made me subject of his mercy. I don't deserve anything but I trust in the goodness of the Lord and his Mother ... One thing I ask of the Lord: to live in the House of the Lord all the days of my life (Ps. 27:4) "*

Yes, Sr. Paola, now you will live forever in the House of the Lord, the beautiful Shepherd whom you loved and sang until the end. We entrust to your intercession also the journey of the Pauline Family in the Centenary year of Foundation and we ask you, along with the Pastorelle of heaven, to continue to accompany us, your mother and your family, so that we can all meet again someday in the joy of a communion without end.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior General

Manila, 29 December 2013
Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth