



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



On 6 January 2014, at 13 50 (Italian time)

In the Community of Negrar (VR),

**SERAFINA ELISA SR IMMACOLATINA DELLAI**

our Sister has returned to the Father's house  
at the age of 74 and 55 years of Religious Life

*"Arise, be clothed with light, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord shines upon you"* (Isaiah 60:1). This is the Word that yesterday, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, our Sister Serafina listened while preparing for the final encounter with the Lord. We know that "get up" in biblical language is equivalent to the word "arise" and it seems that Jesus Good Shepherd has addressed with power precisely to her.

Sr. Serafina was born on June 25, 1939 to Longa (VI), christened on 2 July of that year, Serafina Elisa, the second of seven children, was educated in the Christian faith in a hardworking Venetian family. She participated with interest in parish life and in her teens, she matured her religious vocation. She entered the Congregation on September 12, 1955 at Albano Laziale (RM).

After two years of training she entered the novitiate on 2 September, 1957 and on 3 September, 1958 made her first profession at Albano – Mother House, and took the name of Sr. M. Immacolatina. She was then sent for one year in the apostolate at Solara (MO), and returned to Albano to devote herself to the study as kindergarten teacher. From 1960 to 1965 she is at Pressano of Lavis (TN) to do her internship and then to teach in the kindergarten

Somewhat of shy character, Sr. Immacolatina, assumed in her religious life with that laboriousness and love for order learned in the family, combined with simplicity, humility and joy of living the daily commitments as an expression of her love for the Lord. Rather quiet in her relationships, she knew how to be active and attentive to people expressing to them the goodness which she many times contemplated in Jesus Good Shepherd and lived also as superior, in the service of animation of the Sisters in the community.

In 1963 at Albano she made her Perpetual Profession and returned to the apostolate where she devoted herself primarily to teaching in the kindergarten, but also in different pastoral activities, in various parishes: at Cive of Correzzola (PD) from 1965 to 1974, where she returned in 2012; then Farra di Feltre (BL) from 1978 to 1997, where she devoted herself, since 1989, also to the animation of the community as superior. During this long period of time at Farra, Sr. Serafina took a two-year break at Albano, from 1974 to 1976, to devote herself to the study of Pastoral Theology at the Lateran University in Rome and received her diploma.

The year 1998 she spent at Negrar, as sabbatical time for spiritual and pastoral renewal. Then up to 2002 was engaged in her apostolate in the community of Tor San Lorenzo and in 2003 in the community of Albiano (TN). From 2003 to 2009 she was sent to the community of Oleis (UD) where her spiritual energies aimed specifically at family ministry and visitation of the sick.

Her presence was requested at Negrar for the assistance to the sick sister, a service that Sr. Immacolatina carried out with loving care for two years until she returned to Cive in 2012. It is here, at the beginning of 2013, that she began to experience a malaise that led to being hospitalized in the hospital at Negrar.

When I paid her a visit at the hospital in December, I found her basically serene, She expressed her desire to recover soon: "I can't wait to get back up ... and I hope soon". For some time she was in a condition of not being able to walk without losing her balance; not even the clinical investigations to which she had to submit while in hospital at Negrar (VR) were able to provide a precise diagnosis.

Just before Christmas she was discharged from the hospital but, while waiting to resume further medical tests, precisely the morning of the Solemnity of the Epiphany, she succumbed to a cardiac arrest that, unexpectedly, invited her to leave this earthly life and introduced her to the Life that has no end.

Thank you, Sr. Serafina, for your gentleness and simplicity, thank you because you responded in faith to the invitation of the Liturgy of the Epiphany to get up and arise with Christ. In that invitation you have recognized the voice of the Good Shepherd who called you to the contemplation of his face, in the endless feast of his wedding with all of humanity!

Sr Marta Finotelli  
*Superior General*

Rome, 7 January 2014

*Saint Raimond of Peñafort, priest*