



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



Today, 28 June 2016 at 8.00 a.m. (Filipino time)
in "Bethany Hospital" of San Fernando, La Union

SR. SHIRLEY TORRENTE

went back to the Father's House.

She was 55 years old and 22 years of religious life.

On the 51st Anniversary of pastoral presence in the Philippines and on the eve of the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, Jesus Good Shepherd visited the Philippine-Australia-Saipan-Taiwan to bring to the Father, our sister Shirley, the first Filipina sister who reaches the community of the Pastorelle in Heaven.

Today during the morning prayer of the community, while Sr. Shirley was animating the songs, she was able to listen more strongly the voice of Jesus Good Shepherd who called her to pronounce the final yes to His Love.

Now Shirley can sing with full trust the Alleluia verse which the day's liturgy proposes:
"I trust in the Lord, my soul trusts in his word.

Shirley was born on 25 September 1960 in Cavite City in the Philippines and was baptized on Christmas Day of that same year. She was the third of four children; she was educated in the Christian faith and participated with enthusiasm, as a teenager, in the parish life where she matured her religious vocation. She entered the Congregation on 28 May 1991 in Imus, Cavite, attracted by the apostolate of the Pastorelle, after having finished the Bachelors' degree in Business Administration and a work experience for some years.

She entered the Novitiate on 15 May 1992 in Quezon City and two years later, on 15 May 1994, she made her First Profession. During the time of the Juniorate, she was sent for a year in the community of San Fernando, La Union to devote herself to the parish youth ministry. She manifested great sensibility for the youth, thus from 1995 to 1997, she was in Parañaque community, dedicating herself to the accompaniment of the young people and catechesis for the students of the public schools.

From 1997 to 1998, she coordinated the catechesis in the community of Tanza. The following year, she was at the Formation House in Quezon City to prepare herself for perpetual profession which she made on 15 May 1999. On that occasion, she wrote: *"Moved by the spirit of love of God and the service to the Church, I am applying for perpetual profession, so as to be able to dedicate myself in the following of Jesus Good Shepherd for the*

rest of my life. Entrusting everything to the Lord, I continuously ask the maternal guidance of our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary to journey with me up to the end.”.

Sr. Shirley was a reserved person, deep in her reflections, knew how to collaborate with others, creative and dynamic in the pastoral. She did not improvise in the apostolate but strove to prepare herself well. She was delicate in communication and at the same time courageous in making decisions. Gentle in her treatment, she assumed with responsibility the assignments entrusted to her, accomplishing them with strong will and determination. Orderly and systematic, she lived each service giving the best of herself, always willing to give to others the life that the Good Shepherd allowed her to enjoy.

From 1999 to 2005, she carried out her ministry in the Apostleship of the Sea in Manila. During this experience, she developed a greater openness to ecumenism. In 2002, during an interview I did with Sr. Shirley for the Pauline Cooperator magazine regarding her mission in favor of the needs of the seafarers and their families, she described it this way: *“In my present experience, I learned to appreciate the value of ecumenism. I saw the need, for myself and for those who dedicate themselves to this apostolate, of greater respect and appreciation of other people's religious faith.”*

From 2005 to 2012, she carried out the service as finance officer in Jesus Good Shepherd School of Imus. For a year, she was also the principal of the High School. While in Imus, she also assisted, along with another sister, Sr. Innocenza Turra, who passed away in 2012.

From 2012 to 2013, she was on a leave of absence from the religious community to assist her mother. On her return, she was sent back to the community of San Fernando, La Union to dedicate herself on the youth ministry at the diocesan level.

Since last year, Sr. Shirley suffered from diabetes and irregular blood pressure, which caused a massive cardiac arrest. She was transported to the hospital and her death was ascertain. The Lord has his plans on each Pastorella and on our Congregation and we trust in His designs which are always full of Goodness.

Sr. Shirley, you prepared yourself to the encounter with the Father, participating along with many young people in the Pilgrimage of the Cross of Mercy, which is going through the dioceses of the Luzon Region. Now enjoy the merciful face of the Father who welcomes you in his arms and gives you his peace. Entrust to the intercession of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul our Congregation as she prepares to celebrate the 9th General Chapter so that all of us can rediscover the prophetic gift of the pastoral maternity that the Lord has granted to us with the religious consecration.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 28 June 2016

Memorial of St Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr