



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



Today, 13 May 2016, at 4:30 p.m.
at the "Sacro Cuore" Hospital of Negrar (VR)

ANNA SR SILVIA SALMISTRARO

returned to the Father's house.

She was 83 years old and 58 years of religious life

Today, the eighth day of the Pentecost novena, while the Christian community invokes the presence of the Spirit on humanity, Sr. Silvia concludes her earthly life and enters into the Pastorelle community who have been faithful members of the flock of the Good Shepherd to the end.

Sr. Silvia fulfills what she had promised in her request for admission to perpetual profession in August 1964: *"I ask such a great thing, but I hope, with the help of Divine Grace and my good will, to be able to correspond to my vocation. I promise fidelity and obedience until death, since this has always been my fervent prayer."*

Born on 22 July 1932 at Cartura (PD) and baptized on 7 August, Anna is the youngest of twelve siblings, belonging to a simple and hard-working family who brought her Christianly and where she matured her religious vocation.

She entered the Congregation, already as a mature woman, on 2 January 1956 in Albano (RM) where she lived her early formative years to the life of Pastorella. She entered the Novitiate on 2 September 1958 still at Albano, and made her first profession on 3 September 1959, taking the name of Sr. Silvia.

In 1959, she was sent to the community of Borgo Milano (VR) where she devoted herself generously to teaching in the kindergarten and catechesis of Christian initiation until 1964, when she celebrated her final vows on 3 September at Casa Madre Albano .

From 1964 to 1970, she was the superior in the community of Cavatigozzi (CR) where she carried out various pastoral activities: from visiting the families to the care of the religious education of the young.

In 1970 she was transferred to the community of Lusia (RO), where she carried out the service as superior for five years and she remained there until 1982, living out the ministry of pastoral care through teaching in kindergarten, catechesis to children, the care of families and especially the liturgical animation, through music and song.

In 1982 she had a sabbatical year at the Casa Madre Albano for up-dating. Then she resumed her pastoral ministry in the community of Corbola (RO) until 1993. She was superior of the community for seven years. In the ten years of residence in this place, she accompanied with care families whom she visited frequently and in a special manner, she accompanied the lay teachers in the kindergarten, giving special attention to the children whom she prepared with kindness and patience in the most important celebrations of the parish and the family.

She knew well how to employ her passion for sacred music in catechesis and in the liturgy which she prepared with detailed fineness in all its aspects; she expressed the care of the altar with that feminine touch that invites to participate willingly in the celebrations.

In 1993 while she was at the fullness of pastoral activity, the Lord visited her with an illness that forced her to retire in the community “Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd” of Negrar which was recently opened to accommodate the sick sisters.

Sr. Silvia lived with dignity her illness facing it with a strong will during her twenty-three years of stay in Negrar. She underwent several surgery due to cancer which appeared periodically in various parts in her body, but she never lost her desire to devote herself to others, to animate the prayer of the sisters with music and song, giving praise to the Lord until her strength allowed her. She lived soberly, loved the common life, worked joyfully and manifested gentle trait toward persons thus making herself loved by all.

She lived with great dedication the communion service for the sick sisters of the community, offering to them closeness and comfort. She also lived with generosity and self-sacrifice, as long as she was able, her service at the reception, radiating kindness to all the persons who came to the community.

Reserved, discreet, of few words in conversations, but she knew how to weave meaningful and deep relationships with the persons she met. When she was asked something about her health, with a beautiful smile, she always answered: 'it's good'.

Sr. Silvia lived until the end with a grateful heart to the Lord for all his gifts. In the last visit that I made ten days ago, when she was hospitalized for another surgery, she welcomed me with her usual smile once again expressing her 'thank you', for the care that the Congregation has extended to her.

Now, Sr. Silvia, enjoy eternally the closeness of the Lord whom you followed on the example of Mary, Virgin and mother; He called you precisely on the day when the Church celebrates the memory of the apparitions at Fatima. Mary will be for you like the viaticum of hope. Now, she will accompany you to enjoy fully the fervent and active desire of communion with Jesus Good Shepherd with the sisters and all the persons you loved.

Thank you, Sr. Silvia! We entrust to your intercession the journey of our Congregation so that we too can be faithful the mission given to us by the Lord Jesus until the end.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 13 May 2016
Feast of the Blessed Virgin of Fatima