



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



Yesterday, 11 October 2016, at 11.15 p.m. (Brazilian time)

in Pompeia Hospital of Caxias do Sul

ZELINDA SELENE SR LUIZA GAVAZZONI

has returned to the Father's house

She was 81 years old and 59 years of Religious Life

On the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida, when the entire Brazil unites in prayer asking for the intercession of Mary on the nation and on all her children, Jesus Good Shepherd hands over to the Father our sister Zelinda, the first vocation who entered in Southern Brazil and was always filled with a great missionary spirit.

Zelinda Selene was born on 20 March 1935 in Nova Trento R.S., last of thirteen children, was baptized on 2 April 1935 and entered the Congregation on 13 September 1952 in Terceira Léguas. She was admitted to the Novitiate on 5 January 1956 in Caxias - Av. S. Leopoldo and made her First Profession on 6 January 1957 in Caxias do Sul, taking the name Sr. Luiza.

From the beginning of her journey as a Pastorella, while she devoted herself to the apostolate with great pastoral zeal, she also looked for benefactors who could support the Congregation, which in those years was making its first steps in Southern Brazil.

Sr. Zelinda, as she preferred to be called, made her Perpetual profession on 6 January 1962 in Caxias do Sul. She lived her Pastorella vocation in joy and love for God's people whom she encountered in the various parish communities, almost always in places which were very distant and challenging.

From 1952 to 1996 she carried out her pastoral ministry in different communities of Rio Grande do Sul: Piratuba Torres, Porto Alegre - Partenon, Cazuzza Ferreira, Caxias - Av. S. Leopoldo, Bento Gonçalves, Terceira Léguas, Porto Alegre - Alberione community, Caxias - S. Ciro and Canela, always with great availability and zeal, especially in favor of the families and the sick whom she constantly visited, bringing consolation and comfort. Sr. Zelinda also dedicated herself to the formation of biblical groups, tireless in inviting people to participate in the celebrations in the ecclesial communities.

From 1997 to 2012, apart from a break in Caxias – Casa Betania, to take care of her health, Sr. Zelinda totally dedicated herself to the pastoral mission in the communities of: Conceição do Tocantins, Santana do Livramento, Caxias - Santos Apóstolos, Figuerópolis, Campo Belo, Terceira Léguas. Her apostolate became more and more creative in catechesis,

formation of pastoral workers and animation of ecclesial communities. She took care of the spiritual and physical life of the persons and also of the sisters of the community of Terceira Légua, especially during her service as superior.

In 2012, she was forced to transfer in the Casa Betania community for health reasons, since she was no longer capable to remain in the direct apostolate. Sr. Zelinda also managed here to transform her life in prayer and offering for the pastoral mission. Anyone who visited her whether sisters, relatives, or friends, she always told them: *"You can count on my prayers, this is what I can do now."*

Sr. Zelinda leaves us the testimony of an admirable life and in particular also in the last three years of her sickness which she accepted in a calm and patient manner, living every moment in faith and trust, in a joyful and peaceful community living. With her transparent smile, she expressed to those who approached her the goodness of God.

We ask you, dear Sr. Zelinda, to continue invoking Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd for our Congregation, with the prayer which you left to us:

Mary Mother of all vocations, humble and faithful to the Father's plan, you've lived faith and love.

Mary Shepherdess, Mother of the Good Shepherd, bless the families, the young, the children that they may discover their vocation. Mary, awaken the lay missionary vocations for the pastoral mission of the Church, for your Kingdom.

Mary, give us the virtues: humility, understanding, listening, dialogue and hope. May we, like Jesus, give our lives for the Kingdom. Give us much love and patience with young people in vocational discernment.

Mary Shepherdess, help us to be authentic witnesses of a joyful life in our vocation. Help us to be persons of faith in the Triune God, with a deep and personal love for Christ Shepherd, so that in prayer and contemplation, in listening to the Word of God, we may live joyfully until the end.

Sr. Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 12 October 2016
Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida