



*"Faith in the resurrection
opens up fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death ...".*

(RoL 24)



Today, 28 February 2024 at 04.11 am (local time)
at Santa Catarina Hospital, Sao Paulo, Brazil, our sister

MARIA EUGÊNIA, Sr MARIA AUREA PEDROZA,

has parted this earthly life.

She was 88 years old and 63 years of religious life.

As we entrust our sister to the Father's mercy, we hear the words of the psalmist resound in today's liturgy: *You are my God, my life is in your hands*, words that reflect the missionary testimony of Sr Eugênia as a faithful and joyful Pastorella in every moment of her life.

Maria Eugênia was born on 10 June 1935 in Canhotinho/PE-Brazil and was baptized on 30 June of the same year in San Sebastiano Parish, in her hometown. She entered the Congregation on 28 June 1958 in Caxias do Sul/RS – Av. S. Leopoldo - Brazil and received the religious habit on 03 September 1959. She entered the novitiate on 01 February 1960 and made her first profession on 02 February 1961 and her perpetual profession on 02 February 1966, still in Caxias do Sul – Av. S. Leopoldo.

Sr Eugênia has been described from her initial formation as a sister of profound piety, humble, hardworking, patient, docile, responsible, generous and gifted with a practical intelligence. After her first profession she remained for about two years in Caxias do Sul – Av. S. Leopoldo and subsequently carried out her ministry mainly in the pastoral care of families and also as superior in some communities. In 1963 at S. Paolo – Jabaquara "Istituto Divina Pastora"; 1967 Porto Alegre – Medianeira; 1972 Porto Alegre – Murialdo and 1975 Redenção do Araguaia/PA.

In 1980 she spent some time studying in S. Paolo - Jardim and then resumed her mission: 1983 S. Paolo – Butantã; 1984 Maceió/AL; 1992 Ceilândia/DF; 1999 Recife/PE; 2002 Tupanatinga/PE; 2018 Mutuca – Pesqueira/PE; in 2022 she stayed for three months in Maceió / AL and then returned to Jardim – Sao Paulo. In 2023, after 62 years engaged in direct mission, due to her delicate health, she moved to the São José community where she was cared for with zeal and continued to joyfully live her life as a Pastorella.

A priest said of her: *I had the opportunity to witness her apostolic zeal, her dedication to the mission and her presence full of serenity, profound and committed to the Kingdom of God, in the service of the people that the Lord granted her to serve. I thank the Good Shepherd for this presence, which in simplicity revealed faith and hope, with the willingness to listen to HIS voice, becoming a communicator of this voice of the Lord, of his and our life.*

The sisters have described her thus: *Sr Eugenia spared no effort wherever she went, especially in the peripheries and rural areas. Her motto of Consecrated Life was to carry out the will of God, imitating Jesus the Good Shepherd; she visited, welcomed, loved the people and places she passed through. She was a simple, silent, prayerful and sincere sister in community and in her pastoral relationships. She was able to grasp the reality, the feelings and devotions of the people and the Congregation, transforming them into song.*

Sr Eugênia was a Pastorella of great missionary, catechetical, liturgical and biblical ardor. She was a true artist: singer-songwriter, painter, refined seamstress... gifts always put at the service of evangelization in the pastoral ministry.

She loved her mission and her vocation. She will surely continue to sing from heaven: *"Pastorella, how beautiful is this name. The Good Shepherd today asks us much more, to discern the signs of every time, with Alberione, and intimacy with the Father"* (she is the author of this song written for the celebration of the 70 years of our Congregation).

Our gratitude goes to the sisters of São José Home and to the staff who work in the community, who over the last year have cared for Sr Eugênia with love and dedication.

We thank the Good Shepherd for the gift of Sr Eugênia's life spent for the Kingdom to the end and we ask her to intercede for every believer a humble and hardworking heart in bearing witness to the Gospel.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 28 February 2024
Martyrs of Alexandria