



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



Today, 12 February 2023, at 8.25am,
in the community of Negrar di Valpolicella (VR), our sister
MARIANGELA, Sr MARIA GIUSEPPA COSSU
ended her earthly life.
She was 78 years old and 54 years of Religious Life.

As we entrust to the Father's Mercy our sister Mariangela who lived her long period of illness in faith and in the serene offering of herself like a lighted candle, the words from the book of Sirach echo: *Great indeed is the wisdom of the Lord; strong and mighty, he sees all. His eyes are on those who fear him. (15;18-19)*

Mariangela was born on 05 July 1944 in Sarule (NU) and was baptized on 23 July 1944 in her hometown in the parish dedicated to San Michele Arcangelo. She entered the Congregation on 16 April 1966 in Albano Laziale-Casa Madre, where she had her initial formation. She entered the novitiate on 02 September 1967 and made her first profession on 03 September 1968, taking the name of Maria Giuseppa.

After her first profession she carried out her pastoral ministry mainly in the area of education in the following communities: 1968 in Albiano (TN); 1970 in Consandolo (MO) and in 1972 in Sedilo (OR). She made her perpetual profession on 03 September 1973 in Albano Laziale-Casa Madre and then returned to the community of Sedilo (OR). In 1976 she was transferred to Villimpenta (MN) where she continued to work in the school environment.

Sr Mariangela is described as a sister of faith, simple, generous, joyful, sociable and a lover of community life. She had a strong character and at the same time she was capable of relationships filled with compassion and tenderness towards the needs of others. She could allow herself to be amazed and she manifested this, in a particular way, in discovering the different modalities of our charism being enculturated in the various countries where we are present.

In 1980 she returned to Albano-Casa Madre for a sabbatical year and consequently continued her apostolate in the following communities: 1981 in Sestri Levante (GE), where she also carried out the service of superior of the community; 1984 in Rho (MI) where she

was engaged in the formation of pastoral workers and was superior of the community. It is significant to recall that while in the community of Rho, during the inauguration of the new church, the parish priest presented our sister Sr Mariangela to Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini as the "parish priest of Capuana" for her great dedication to the people of that neighborhood.

In 1995 Sr Mariangela spent a time of renewal in Rome in the Community of Via Traversari where she attended the second biennium of the Charism of the Pauline Family, organized by the Pastorelle internally. At the same time, she attended different courses at the Faculty of Missiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. This was a time in which she experienced the richness of the gift of the Pauline charism, deepening in a particular way the action of the Holy Spirit in the thought of Fr. Alberione and giving her mature, joyful and maternal presence to her community.

After this time of study in Rome, she continued her ministry: 1997 in Saliceto Panaro (MO) in catechetics; 1998 in Grugliasco (TO) in social ministry and as community superior; 1999 in Fiorenzuola D'Arda (PC) in social pastoral care and as a worker for Caritas. On leaving Fiorenzuola, the parish community expressed its gratitude to Sr Mariangela describing her as a sister who was always ready to say *"yes" in a fusion of love and mercy towards others and coming close to people in need, welcoming all who knocked on the door of the "SMALL HOUSE of CHARITY"*.

In 2008 she returned to Saliceto Panaro where she made herself available for various tasks. In 2009, she was transferred to the house in Negrar to receive treatment due to an illness that manifested itself unexpectedly and which gradually led Sr Mariangela to also lose her power of speech. A long period of illness that she lived with patience, accepting the care that the sisters and the health personnel offered her with love and great generosity. We thank the Community of Negrar that for so many years gave Sr Mariangela the spiritual and material support to live her illness with serenity and trusting abandonment. Special thanks go to Sr Iole and Sr Rosangela (who died in these past days) for the uninterrupted dialogue they maintained with Sr Mariangela; a dialogue that went beyond the words that she could no longer utter, but which was interwoven with small gestures.

In thanking the Good Shepherd for the gift of your life as a Pastorella, we recall what you expressed when living in the "Little House of Charity": *We need to focus on interpersonal relationships. In a time of dispersion, loneliness and individualism, it is more necessary than ever to establish contacts, weave relationships that speak of attention of the other, solidarity and companionship. We also entrust to your intercession the gift of peace and solidarity towards all victims of conflicts and natural disasters.*

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 12 February 2023
VI Sunday in Ordinary Time