



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



Today, 11 March 2025 at 7.21 pm,
in the community of Negrar (VR), our sister
TERESA, SR M. SILVANA GHERLINZONI
has parted this earthly life.
She was 82 years old and 62 years of religious life.

While in today's liturgy, we were singing: *look to him and you will be radiant*, the Father called to himself our sister Teresa who throughout her sixty-two years of consecrated life turned her gaze on the Good Shepherd and radiated the joy and luminosity of being a Pastorella.

Teresa was born on 30 August 1942 in Corbola (RO), to a large family of great faith. She was the second of seventeen children: six brothers and ten sisters. She was baptized on the same day as her birth, in the town parish dedicated to Santa Maria Maddalena.

She entered the Congregation on 15 September 1958 in Albano Laziale – Mother House (RM) and the novitiate on 2 September 1961. She made her First Profession on 3 September 1962 and her Perpetual Profession on 3 September 1967 in Albano Laziale – Mother House. On the eve of her First Profession, she wrote with simplicity and depth: *my greatest desire is to be a holy Pastorella according to the heart of Jesus Good Shepherd and to lead many souls to Him.*

Since her initial formation, Sr. Teresa has been described as a person of prayer, thoughtful, cheerful, sociable, open, sincere, and ready to help everyone and spread joy among the sisters. During the Juniorate, she was described as a good sister and compassionate towards the suffering.

After her first profession, she lived her pastoral ministry in Verona – Borgo Milano (VR) and in 1964 she returned to Albano Laziale – Mother House for studies. In addition to the parish apostolate, Sr. Teresa carried out her apostolic activity mainly in the field of education in kindergartens in various communities: 1965 in Polpet (BL); 1966 Valle S. Giorgio (PD); 1967 Vicenza – S. Agostino (VI). In 1979, due to health reasons, she returned to Albano Laziale–Mother House. In 1981, she had a sabbatical year. She resumed her pastoral ministry in 1982 in Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI) dedicated to family ministry, and in 1989, she resumed teaching in Castel D'Azzano (VR), and remained there until 2013.

From 2013, due to health reasons, Sr. Teresa was transferred to Negrar (VR) where, despite her fragile health, she lived in community with serenity and joy, put her talents to good use and contributed to

creating a joyful and fraternal environment. The sisters testify: *she was the second child of a large family, rich in faith and human and Christian values. She was the first Pastorella from her town. A person rich in faith, she always accepted the various trials that came with her poor health. She was always cordial and jovial and had a sense of humour. She knew how to defuse and put everyone at ease, making fraternal life more joyful and amiable*

On this day, after dinner, Sr Teresa was suddenly called by the Father and with the serenity that had always characterized her, she responded with her "*here I am*". We thank the community of Negrar and the health personnel who, over these years, have given Sr Teresa the care she needed and their affection. While we entrust our sister Teresa to the Father's Mercy, we thank her for her testimony as a joyful and faithful Pastorella. We ask her to intercede for the gift of health for Pope Francis and the gift of peace for our world.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 11 March 2025
Tuesday of the 1st Week of Lent
St Constantine