



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



Today, 23 April 2021 at 11.50am
at San Giovanni Bosco hospital – Torino, our sister
Sr GRAZIA QUATTROCCHI
returned to the Father's House.
She was 76 years old and 51 years of Religious Life.

With the psalmist in today's liturgy, we raise our praise to the Good Shepherd, *because strong is his love for us, and the Lord's fidelity lasts forever*. A love and a fidelity that Sr Grazia knew and welcomed in her life with sentiments of gratitude at all times.

Grazia, the third of four children, a sister and two brothers, was born on 30 May 1944 in Ionia (CT) and baptized on 02 July 1944 in the parish of Acireale (CT) dedicated to St Joseph.

She entered the Congregation on 17 October 1966 in Albano Laziale - Casa Madre (RM) and the novitiate on 02 September 1968. She made her first profession on 03 September 1969 and her perpetual profession on 03 September 1974 in Albano Laziale - Mother House. In her letter for admission to perpetual profession, Sr Grazia expressed herself as follows: *I feel very serene in the face of this total and definitive "yes". I feel this is a very different "yes" from the first; different because I understand more deeply that God is very demanding. I want to learn to do in all circumstances, even the most painful, only God's will.*

From her initial formation, Sr Grazia is described as a simple, good, sociable, mature person, firm in her decisions and having a sense of humor. She loved prayer, community life, and study and applied herself in the apostolate with great commitment. After her first profession, she stayed in Albano to study. Subsequently, she lived her pastoral ministry in different communities: in 1971 in Rieti training for kindergarten teaching. From 1972, she was in Consandolo (FE), engaged in the sector of catechesis; from 1977, she was in Foggia in the CEP district, mainly engaged in kindergarten teaching. In 1983, she was sent to Reggio Calabria and in 1984 to Bussi sul Tirino (PE). In these last three communities, she also fulfilled the office of superior of the community. In 1985, she returned to Albano Laziale – Mother House for a sabbatical year, and then continued her mission mainly engaged in kindergarten teaching and in parish catechesis: 1986 in Ancona; 1989 Doria (CS); 1992 in Avellino - Borgo Ferrovia.

From 1993, in Saliceto Panaro (MO), she was involved in the formation of pastoral workers. She resumed teaching in 1994 in Sant 'Angelo di Celle (PG).

In 1995, Sr Grazia asked to be assigned to a community closer to the home of her older brother, who had poor health. Following this request, in 1996 she transferred to Sestri Levante (GE) where she was responsible for the formation of pastoral workers. In 1998, she was in Negrar (VR) for a new sabbatical year. In 1999 she was in Vicenza - Sant 'Agostino and in 2006, in Borgaretto (TO), still engaged in the formation of pastoral workers. From 2009, due to the deterioration of her brother's health, Sr Grazia moved to Turin with her family to assist him. In her time of absence from the community, Sr Grazia followed the life of the Congregation with care, praying and offering her intentions for each Pastorella and for the Church.

Sr Grazia kept her enthusiasm for the mission and love for the Congregation alive. On every occasion, she expressed gratitude for having had the grace to assist her brother and not feeling alone during her time spent in the family. Sr Grazia loved to repeat often: *I don't know much and I can't do much, but what I can do is pray and I do it willingly. I don't do this alone but together with my brother and I offer everything for our Institute.*

A fellow sister testifies as follows: Sr Grazia was one of the "*blessed and simple*". *She possessed evangelical simplicity. She had the ability to sense the suffering and the problems of the other, knowing how to be a neighbour in the truest gratuitousness possible. She was able to accept and live in silence the physical suffering that accompanied her for so many years.*

Sr Grazia died of a sudden stroke, causing brain death. We thank Sr Grazia's family who promptly helped her, accompanying her to hospital and staying close to her, in a very special way, in this last moment of her earthly life.

We entrust Sr Grazia to Father's mercy and we thank Him for the gift of her life as a Pastorella. We ask Sr Grazia, in the Year dedicated to the Amoris Laetitia Family, to intercede for the spiritual and material needs of so many families who live in suffering.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 23 April 2021
St George