



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



Yesterday, 19th December, at 18.25
in the community of Mother House – Albano Laziale
Jesus Good Shepherd entrusted to the Father our Sister

LUISA M. ANGELINA BARATTIN

at the age of 82 years and 61 years of Religious Life.

In novena for Christmas, when the whole Church calls out: "*Come, Lord Jesus!*" our Sister Angelina, suddenly and silently left this world to meet with the Lord Jesus Good Shepherd, whom she loved in the simplicity of her life, given with great generosity, until the end.

Luisa was born on May 18, 1929 at Puos D'Alpago (BL) and was baptized on 21st of May of the same year. She was educated in a family with strong Christian roots, the fifth of six siblings, grew up learning to take care of others without any self interest, until the decision to enter the Congregation on the 27th August 1946 at Genzano (RM).

On the 14th of August 1949 she entered the novitiate at San Pietro delle Acque(PG) where, on 15 August 1950, makes her first vows, taking the name of Sr Angelina. "*I feel weak and incapable with only my strength, but I trust in the help of divine grace*" she wrote on the eve of her first profession. A sense of trust that Sr. Angelina has cultivated along all the days of her life. In fact from the outset, she stood out for her sensitivity towards people in need. Of good nature, very practical, energetic, she gladly lends her service in the kitchen, in the garden, in accompanying people to the doctors, in being close to families when they were visited by pain or grief. Immediately after the war, we see her going from one house to another to visit families, bringing them something to eat, to wear ... together with much understanding. A trait that Sr Angelina maintained in every pastoral reality she encountered.

She spent the time preceding the Perpetual Profession in the communities of Bussi sul Tirino (PE), Consandolo (FE), Bonavigo (VR) devoting herself to the Preschool with the same passion, be it teaching the children or preparing their lunch. On 6th August 1955, she made her Perpetual Profession in Albano Laziale (RM). She then returned to Bussi as superior of the community until 1959 when she came to the Mother House at Albano to study and achieve a diploma in teaching in the preparatory grade schools, after a year of practicum at Avellino's Preschool. Her love towards children and their families, her care for the elderly and the sick, her appeal towards adolescents and young people made Sr Angelina *a much loved Sister of the people*. During a school camp she was affectionately called by the young, *Mckay*, a name by which, from that time onwards, she loved to be called.

It can be said without doubt that Sr Angelina was a *“beneficial ray of the sun”* in parish communities where she lived the ministry of pastoral care. From 1961 to 1998 she was at: Lamosano (BL), S. Lucia di Fiamignano (RI), Collemaggiore (RI) where people appreciated and esteemed her maternal care. This is also confirmed in a letter of 1998, signed by the people of the municipality of Borgorose following her transfer to the community of Lavarate (SA): *“Mother Angelina has been with us for 18 years lovingly being a mother to our children, loving and helping our old and the sick, working for the Church and often taking the place of the priest whom we lacked. (...) Her absence causes in all of us a huge discomfort, we are unable to resign ourselves to the fact of not seeing her in our homes.”*

Even at Lavarate where she stayed until 2006, Sr Angelina devoted herself to visit the sick and the families of the parish, untiringly. Even with the Sisters of the community where she lived, she was very benign, friendly and able to promote fraternal communion. Expressing always a great love for the Congregation and for the people of God entrusted to her. Good natured, informal and energetic at the same time, she devoted herself tirelessly and with commitment to the care of souls, both in good health and even in sickness which she experienced upon her on the return to the community of Collemaggiore: first a pancreatitis, then a meningioma, later the infirmities of aging. Sr Angelina, with the same tenacity she dealt with the difficulties encountered in ministry, gradually lived her illness, lovingly assisted by the Sisters of her community and immersed in prayer for her people.

Sunday 18th December, before her departure from Collemaggiore, to spend a few days with the Sisters of Albano, a procession of people came to greet her, expressing esteem and affection, hoping for a quick return. To each one, she expressed her *“Thankyou”* simply, spontaneously, profoundly, just as was her whole life.

Sr Angelina, on the vigil of Christmas, the Lord was pleased to call you to be reunited with the community of the Pastorelle Sisters of heaven and those you have loved in your ministry, to contemplate the face of Jesus Good Shepherd. Now you too receive the award reserved for good people. You have been a *“good Pastorella”* now you see fulfilled what Blessed J. Alberione reminded us: *“Who is good and merciful will find goodness and mercy always in the heart of Jesus. Be good, good, good: with everyone! Think well, speak well, and desire the good of everyone And doing that good that is possible in our circumstances, in our apostolates. Behold: she who uses goodness, will find mercy from the Lord”*. (AAP 1962, 55).

Thank you Sr Angelina for the example of goodness that you have left us, intercede for us now the gift of goodness so that every Pastorella may enjoy of the divine mercy.

Sr Marta Finotelli
superior general

Roma, 20 December 2011