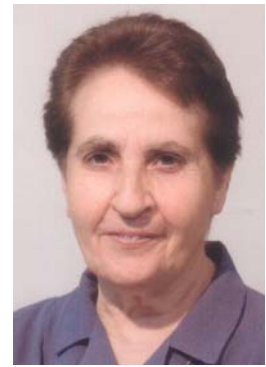
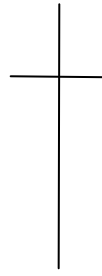


*Suore di Gesù Buon Pastore "Pastorelle"
Casa Generalizia
Via Leonardo Umile 13 – 00144 Roma*



Today, 20 November 2010, at 10.40 am Italian time,
in the community of Pescara

the Risen Jesus Good Shepherd has handed over to the Father for always our sister

SR. GIUSEPPINA AGATA MAUGERI

76 years old and 49 years of religious life.

On the eve of the Solemnity of Christ the King, when the Church is about to conclude a Liturgical year and prepare for a new year of grace, Jesus the Good Shepherd calls to himself Sr. Giuseppina to crown her life spent in the pastoral mission to His kingdom and handing her over to the Father.

"Let us go to the house of the Lord rejoicing" sings the psalmist (Psalm 121)! It is this joy that I saw yesterday, on the face of Sr. Giuseppina, while living the last hours of her earthly life. A serene face, a peaceful gaze, a beautiful smile, interrupted only for a moment by an acute pain.

Agata was born in Acicatena (CT) in the Diocese of Acireale on September 24, 1934 and is the fourth of seven children: three brothers and three sisters. She was baptized on October 21, 1934, educated by a Christian family where she matured her religious vocation. She entered the Congregation on March 14, 1958 at Albano Laziale (Rome) where she received her early formation. On September 2, 1960 she entered the novitiate and on September 3, 1961 she pronounced her first vows and took the name Sr. Giuseppina.

Then she took the Diploma of Education and experiences her apprenticeship in the kindergarten of Avellino in 1962. Then she was transferred to Bussi sul Tirino (PE) and remains there as a kindergarten teacher until 1973. In the meantime, she makes her final vows on September 3, 1966 at the Motherhouse in Albano.

Her passion for children and the catechism is a constant character for this simple sister, humble, generous and always smiling. She carries out her ministry with great enthusiasm and prepares herself diligently accomplishing them with competence, even earning a diploma in Religious Studies.

After her perpetual profession, she lives the ministry of pastoral care in the parish communities of Medolla (MO) and Crosia (CS) from 1973 to 1976 where she devoted herself mainly to the care of children as a kindergarten teacher.

Soon Sr. Giuseppina places at service her theological preparation and devoted herself with her usual passion in everything that concerns the “care of souls” in various parishes, where she shares with simplicity the community life and the pastoral mission: from 1976 to 1982 in Castellammare di Stabia (NA) from 1983 to 1985 in Rossano (CS), from 1985 to 1994 in Foggia and finally in Pescara for 16 years.

The catechetical coordination in the elementary schools, the formation of parents, dedication at the “Centri di ascolto”, the preparation of baptisms in the family, devotion in giving communion to the sick and the care of the liturgy are her ordinary commitments, always nourished by her constant conversation with the Lord and by fraternal life marked by generosity, promptness and love for the Congregation and the pastoral charism.

Last May, she undergoes a thorough medical examination which revealed carcinoma of the colon. On June 15, she underwent a surgery that seemed to be successful that Sr. Giuseppina returns regularly to her beloved pastoral activities and in September she was even able to visit her family in Sicily. When she returned to the community at the end of three months, she undergoes the required medical check-up and an aggressive cancer was discovered that even the doctors themselves were surprised. She then underwent chemotherapy, but her health situation collapsed considerably, partly due to the presence of a latent leukemia which she had already for years and was forced to suspend the treatment after only two cycles of chemotherapy.

Sr. Giuseppina lives her sickness entrusting herself to the Lord every day with great serenity. She was assisted by the sisters of her community with loving care until the end. And even when she can no longer express herself with words and is increasingly limited in her movements, her smile is the best gift that she gives to the sisters and to the persons of the parish who visit her daily.

Yesterday, as I approached her bedside, I perceived on her face the serenity of a person ready to meet her Lord. And when I told her: “*Giuseppina, you feel the Lord beside you, is it true?*”. She gave me a beautiful smile and her eyes lit up with joy. The joy of a Pastorella who gave her life to Jesus Good Shepherd, carrying out the pastoral mission in silence and in a hidden manner.

At the conclusion of the novitiate Sr. Giuseppina writes: “*I love the parish apostolate and I will commit myself faithfully to collaborate with the pastors of souls,*” a commitment which she maintains with joyful fidelity and greatness of soul, actualizing what our Founder demanded to the Pastorelle “*The forces of the mind, the forces of health, energy, intelligence, we consume all for the salvation of souls*” (PrP III, 1948, p. 199).

Sr. Giuseppina, now that Jesus, the King of Glory welcomes you in his arms as the Crucified and Risen, remember all of us Pastorelle while He, the Good Shepherd shall present you to the Father and gives you the reward prepared for you. Pray that we too can consume everything for the salvation of the persons entrusted to us.

Sr. Marta Finotelli
superior general

Rome, 20 November 2010