



*"Faith in the resurrection
Opens us to fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death...".
(RoL 24)*



Today, 27 September 2012, at 8:45 a.m
in the community of Pescara,
our Sister GIUSEPPINA RITA MAGGINI
returned to the Father's House.
She was 91 years old and 72 years in the religious life.

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn. 14:6). This morning, Sr. Giuseppina, a Pastorella of the first hour, returned to the Father's house. She welcomed the definitive call of the Good Shepherd, as she was preparing to participate in the daily Eucharistic Celebration together with the sisters of her community.

Rita was born on 14 March 1921 at Dissimo, a village in the municipality of Re (NO) and was baptized on the same day. The fourth of eight children, she cultivated her Christian faith participating at the parish community where she was confirmed on 8 May 1934. In the height of adolescent period, at 16 years old, she entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, at Rome – Antonino Pio on 1 September 1937. According to her testimony, she was chosen by Maestra Tecla Merlo, superior general of the Daughters of St. Paul, among the first group of postulants to go to Genzano (Rome) and on 9 May 1939 she entered the novitiate.

She made her first profession on 10 May 1940 at Genzano and the perpetual profession on 21 March 1948, in Marciana Alta (LI) while she was in the apostolate. Profession which was confirmed in the hands of the Founder on 7 October 1953, after the Diocesan approval of the Institute, along with the first fourteen Pastorelle. *"I'm happy to be among the first Pastorelle and have lived in poverty and in the simplicity of God's children."*

Of open character, with lively intelligence, resourceful and creative in the pastoral ministry and fraternal life, Sr. Giuseppina united to wise living a sober yet profound communication. She thus testified on the occasion of her 90th birthday in an interview published in the parish bulletin: *"At Genzano, I received the initial formation composed of study, prayer, sacrifice and hard work. Our superiors spurred us to grow in virtue, but also prepared us adequately to serve others. With this intention, I got a driver's license (a rarity at that time) and the Nursing Diploma. Bearing in mind that we Pastorelle are at the service of the parish community, I then studied music and singing to make the liturgy beautiful."*

From 1938 to 1942 she was at Genzano for the initial formation. From 1942 to 1944, she was given the task as superior of the community of Capoliveri (LI) and then Rio Elba (LI).

During the time of war she was transferred to Limana and Voltago (BL). Here Sr.

Giuseppina recalled: *"We spent the war years like nomads, 'a little here and there', but always happy and cheerful. We were so full of life, with so much enthusiasm and the joy of being Pastorelle."* From 1948 to 1950 she was in Marciana Alta (LI), again as superior of the community and dedicating herself to the pastoral care of families and the oratory for young girls.

From 1950 to 1958 she spent eight years in Borgorose (RI), devoting herself to the pastoral ministry, in the years immediately following the war, when the Pastorelle also helped in uplifting the population economically.

From 1958 to 1960 she devoted herself to the pastoral care of families in the community of Ancona. Later she was appointed superior of the community of Crosia (CS) where she remained for six years. From 1966 to 1977 she carried out her mission in Bovara di Trevi (PG) dedicating herself especially to the elderly and the sick and visiting the families of the parish.

In 1977 she arrived at Pescara, in the parish of the Holy Guardian Angels, where for many years, she carried out her ministry in the care of the Church, in family visitation, in bringing communion to the sick and the distribution of the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*. But above all, she spread her witnessing as a Pastorella who reached out to the hearts of all who meet her, leaving to all a sentiment of goodness and simplicity.

In April, Sr. Giuseppina gave this testimony about her knowledge of the Founder in the early years of her religious life: *"Some phrases of Don Alberione remained incised in me: 'Your beautiful vocation makes you dispose until heroic sacrifice. Do you not feel within you a heart like the heart of Jesus who gave his life for his sheep? Your spiritual motherhood has its martyrdom in order to save a lot of young women.' We felt that Don Alberione was a man of broad vision. He wanted us to be strong women, with deep inner spirit. He had in mind above all our spiritual and pastoral formation."*

Throughout her life, she always strove to live what she had heard directly from the Founder, with enthusiasm and joy.

And it is in Pescara, already 91 years old, she manifests that she was still strong, lucid, full of initiative, active. In the last months, she felt only a bit of tiredness due to the infirmities of her age. And she was on her post when the Good Shepherd came to take her with him.

Thank you Sr. Giuseppina, for having built the Congregation from the beginning of its history with your witnessing and pastoral passion. May the Good Shepherd, whose footsteps you tread for a long life, introduce you to the eternal wedding feast and continue to remember us in Him.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 27 September 2012
Feast of St. Vincent de Paul