



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



On 6th of May at 10:20 a.m. (local time)
In the Medical Centre Hospital of Imus, Cavite (Philippines)
Jesus Good Shepherd consigned to the Father our Sister

MADDALENA INNOCENZA TURRA

79 years of age and 56 years of Religious life

On the Fifth Sunday of Easter, while in the Responsorial Psalm we sing: "Our heart lives forever" Sr. Innocenza joins in the song: " But I shall live for Him." And she surrenders herself into the hands of the Risen One, sure now that the one who remains in Jesus Good Shepherd, the True Vine, can only but bear much fruit.

Maddalena was born on 12 September 1932 at Tonadico of Primiero (TN), and was baptised on the 18th of the same month. Educated in the Christian faith in rural family who was very hardworking and lived from the fruit of their labour, she was the second child of three children, in a homely atmosphere, sober and joyful, Maddalena matures her religious vocation and at the age of 19, enters in the Congregation on 6 October 1951 at Genzano.(RM) She entered the Novitiate at Albano Laziale, Mother House on 2 September 1954 and makes her first Profession on 3 September 1955, taking the name of Sr. Innocenza.

Since the early years of formation Sr. Innocenza shows a good spirit, a practical intelligence, loves working and knows how to establish deep, joyful interpersonal relationships which highlight her beautiful character. Even as a Postulant she already expressed passion for the charism of the Institute, showing deep understanding.

After the first profession she begins her pastoral mission in the communities of Verona-Borgo Milano and Sant'Angelo di Celle (PG) where she is primarily engaged in the catechesis to youngsters and assisted in the Kindergarten. Docile and capable of sacrifice, she is dedicated to the apostolate with simplicity and love above all towards children, the poor and the sick.

On 3 September 1960 she makes her Perpetual Profession at Albano and soon after is sent to the community of Albiano (TN), where she receives the call for the mission to leave for the Philippines. Sr. Innocenza accepts this with great generosity and love for Jesus Good Shepherd and the Sisters, she leaves Italy to support the new foundation.

Sr. Innocenza spends most of her life in this country of the seven thousand islands, she learned to love it with her whole being, dedicating herself to the Sisters and to the apostolate from February 1966 up to the day of her return to the Father's house, except for a short break in 2000, when she had her sabbatical at Negrar (VR)

Sr. Innocenza shared the precariousness and the struggles of the new opening of the Congregation in the East. A Foundation which began in May 1965. She was like a big Sister, humble, friendly, discreet, who knew how to accompany the young Filipino Sisters in the essentials of our vocation. Being a rocky and tenacious mountaineer full of faith and constant in prayer, passionate for the pastoral charism, she strove to consolidate the first steps of the Congregation in the largest Catholic country in the East, a country filled with courteous hardworking people. Devoted to the poorest, she lived with simplicity of heart and the essentials of life. Nobody was excluded from her care, nor children, nor young, nor elderly, nor the sick: to everyone she offered a smile, a gesture of kindness and invited the Sisters to sobriety and to savings in order to share as much as possible with the most needy.

In the 46 years lived in the Philippines she was asked to carry out various Congregational services: Regional Vicar for two mandates, Provincial treasurer for three terms, Superior in the communities of Mendez, Tondo, Imus and Quezon City – Novitiate. In a letter to the Superior General in 1998, with much serenity, Sr. Innocenza says: *"I will not hide the fact that there are difficulties, but these help me to depend wholly and forever in our Good Shepherd."*

During her illness in 2005 when she was diagnosed with Parkinson disease, Sr. Innocenza does not lose her sense of humour and joy in living. She sought in every way to be useful in the simplest activities among the children and young people of the school of Imus. Lovingly assisted by the Sisters, Sr. Innocenza lived her illness convinced, as she has written in 1998, *"that the example is worth more than many beautiful words or homilies."* Faithful to this entrustment she allowed herself to be taken by the Good Shepherd's hand who came to take her to Himself and she silently and serenely as she has lived, followed Him, giving thanks for all the care and love received.

Sr. Innocenza, your desire to *"always be a true Pastorella according to the heart of Jesus Good Shepherd"* we can say that it was fully realized. Now you enjoy the presence of the Father who has grafted you definitely in Christ and you gather the fruits of a life given to your brothers and sisters and all spent in search of things that are eternal. Thank you, Sr. Innocenza for the good example of a lived life you left for us. May Christ Good Shepherd welcome you and together with the Pastorelle of Heaven continue interceding for all of us and your dear ones.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior General

Rome, 8th of May, 2012
Our Lady of Pompei