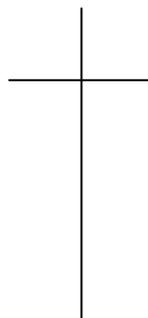


Suore di Gesù Buon Pastore "Pastorelle"
Casa Generalizia
Via della Pisana 419 - 00163 Roma



Today, 4 May 2011, at 10:00 a.m.
in the community of Rieti,
our sister

Madre LETIZIA MARIA TURRA

74 years old and 54 years of religious life
returned to the house of our Father

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). This Gospel acclamation of today's liturgy invites us to contemplate the face of the Risen Shepherd, the face that our sister Letizia contemplates today and forever!

The desire of Madre Letizia was not to write many things about her, but only that which she lived as essential: her love for Jesus Good Shepherd, for the Congregation, for the Church and for all indiscriminately.

Maria was born in Tonadico (TN) on Novembre 12, 1936. Third in a brood of four, she grew in a "mountainous" family and together with the fresh air of the Dolomites, she also breathed a strong Christian faith, maturing this way, at only 14 years of age, the choice of the religious life.

She entered the Congregation at Genzano on October 18, 1950 and in that same year she underwent a period of formation at S. Pietro alle Acque (PG). In 1951 she returned at Genzano and in 1952 had her apostolic experience at Verona-Borgo Milano. In 1953 she was in the Mother House in Albano Laziale (RM) where she entered the novitiate on September 12, 1955, and on September 3, 1956 she pronounced her vows taking the name of Letizia. The name has always been her program of life. Those who knew her can attest that a smile has always accompanied her in spite of not a few moments of sufferings, both familial and Congregational.

A few months after her first profession she wrote to Madre Celina: *"The Lord has given me much light, and I will always strive to respond with generosity. I am deeply happy of my profession. In that moment I truly felt being possessed by God and I will be for always.*

With this same spirit, on September 3, 1961, sr Letizia made her perpetual profession in Albano where she devoted many years of her life, after a brief period as a student, both at the initial formation and at the service of government. Services which she always carried out with much generosity, dedication and humanity searching to incarnate what the Constitutions of 1953 expressed: *"In the formation we must aim to give and conserve the spirit of simplicity, truthfulness and action. Wherever, the sisters should have these characteristics: simple, pious, alert, holy industriousness, not many words, but a solid piety, rectitude and intelligent activity."*

She was a general councillor from 1965 to 1981. Subsequently, in the community of Rieti she dedicated herself to pastoral charity in its multiple aspects. Later, she was nominated Provincial Superior of Italy Central South from 1982-1989 and then again from 1993 -1995.

Back in Rieti, "Madre Letizia", as she is usually called in the Congregation, lived each day the simplicity and joy which the Founder wished for the Pastorelle, manifesting these characteristics through goodness and love toward each person and also devoting herself, together with the community, in taking care of her niece Giovanna. She also carried out with availability the task as the Diocesan Responsible of the USMI.

The joy of living has never weakened in M. Letizia. Three years ago, in 2008 as a consequence of cancer in the intestine, she underwent a delicate surgery and after a series of therapy she resumed her rhythm of life with serenity and dedication as always. Last January, the cancer was reawakened to the point that another hospitalization was necessary. She faced everything with great serenity, encouraging the sisters, who with much love, took care of her until the moment in which the Good Shepherd called her.

In the last dialogue I had with her on Good Friday, she expressed to me her total surrender to the Lord saying: *"I have always loved life, and I wish to get well, but if the Lord disposes otherwise, I feel at peace with everyone, I have always loved the Congregation and I am happy of being a Pastorella"*.

Thank you M. Letizia for your joy in living as a "good" Pastorella! We are certain that you intercede with the Good Shepherd for all of us and for the persons you have loved in the Parish of *Madonna del Cuore* in Rieti. We make our own your invitation expressed in November 2008: *"we commit ourselves to be the image of His goodness, journeying together and sharing the joys and sufferings of humanity."*

Sr Marta Finotelli
superior general

Rome, 4 May 2011