



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



On June 4 at 9:10 a.m.,
at the "Sacro Cuore" Hospital of Negrar (VR)
Jesus Good Shepherd handed over to the Father our sister
LUISA MARIA ASSUNTA SIMION
82 years old and 59 years of religious life

The Father, who in His providence disposes all things according to His plan of salvation, welcomed this our sister today in his kingdom.

Sr. Luisa, simple, humble, self-forgetting in relating with persons, always smiling and available to donate herself in the fraternal life and in the apostolate, ended her earthly life offering until the end her total self to the Good Shepherd for the salvation of his people.

Born in the beautiful mountains of the valley of Primiero, in Mezzano, in Trent, on 15 August 1930, she was brought up in a large family of mountaineers, lovers of hard work and steadfast in the Christian faith, Maria Assunta, the seventh of thirteen children, was baptized on 21 August 1930 and was placed under the protection of the Virgin Mother.

At the age of twenty years, she entered the Congregation on 10 August 1950 in Genzano (RM) and after a brief formation period, she was sent to Consandolo (FE) from 1951 to 1952 and later to Bevilacqua (VR), where on 12 June 1953, made the profession, taking the name of Sr. Luisa. Her first profession was done simultaneously with the first group of sisters who professed their vows among the Pastorelle, immediately after the Diocesan approval of the Congregation. Here she remained until 1954, then was sent to Rossano (CS) until 1958. Well esteemed and loved by the people, stood out in her the sweetness and tenderness of Jesus Good Shepherd.

On the eve of her profession, Sr. Luisa wrote: *"I'm fine and I'm so happy, every day is a new life of work, sacrifice and responsibility. We did the retreat for the month of May, putting our resolution under the protection of Mary Most Holy, my particular: to progress on my main proposition (humility of mind) and to offer my work for the conversion of sinners."*

On 2 August 1958 at Albano Laziale casa madre, she made her perpetual profession and committed her entire life for this intention.

In the various parishes where she carried out the pastoral ministry, between 1958 and 1982: Cive (PD), Pressano di Lavis (TN), Villimpenta (MN), Adria (RO), Albiano (TN), Sr. Luisa was available with generosity in the various pastoral needs: from catechesis to the kitchen in the kindergarten, from the family apostolate to embroidery workshop for girls, from visitation

of the sick to the animation of the women's group for the mission bazaar, from the formation of altar boys to the education of children, especially the most needy.

Sr Luisa spent only two years at Albano Laziale, 1976-1978, in order to obtain a kindergarten teacher degree and then went back with the same passion to the apostolate. She spent thirty years of her life in Farra di Feltre (BL). And it was precisely here that on the occasion of the fraternal visit of the General Government in February 2010, when called to share her experience of pastoral care, she expressed it this way: *"In the vital encounter with Jesus, I feel that He is close to me and gives me security and serenity. In the journey of faith as a community, I seek above all, the life of prayer, fraternity and to love one another. In the ministry of pastoral care entrusted to us, I want to be sensitive to the problems of persons through listening, prayer and love."*

Sr. Luisa lived in this way, in silence and in hidden life, like a seed sown in good soil that bears fruit without making noise. And last Christmas of 2012 while she was at Feltre, fully immersed in the pastoral, the Lord presented her a new call through sickness that forced her to pause and undergo various medical treatment until the diagnosis: cancer that gradually invaded her body which was already small. She lived with serenity the nearly six months that remained of her life, assisted with love by the Sisters of the community of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd in Negrar, continuing to offer her life for vocations, for the holiness of the Congregation for the needs of the whole world.

She was admitted at the "Sacro Cuore" Hospital a few days ago for a respiratory crisis, Sr. Luisa left this world quietly, actualizing her offering to the Lord and praying for the conversion of all of us, Pastorelle.

Thank you, Sr. Luisa! Now in Heaven, together with the other Pastorelle who already contemplate the merciful face of the Good Shepherd, remember us and intercede for each Pastorella, for the Pauline Family and the Church a continuous conversion of the heart.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 4 June 2013