



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



Today, 6th September 2012, at 9.30a.m.
at Gizzeria Lido (CZ),

our Sister **MICHELANGELA ALESSANDRA MASI**
has returned to the Father's House
She was 73 years old of which 49 years in religious life.

"... They left everything and followed him" (Lk 5:11). This is what our Sister Alessandra definitely and serenely lived while listening to the voice of Jesus Good Shepherd whom today with joy consigns her to the Father and welcomes her into the Heavenly community of the Pastorelle.

Michelangela was born on 2 February 1939 at Gizzeria (CZ) in a laborious family of sound religious principles. She was the first of six children, baptised on the 19 February of the same year and confirmed on 6 July 1958 at Nicastro (CZ). She matured her religious vocation while being part of the parish of Gizzeria. Michelangela entered the Congregation on 11 July 1958 at Albano Laziale (RM), where eight years later was joined by her sister Pasqualina.

She was admitted to the noviciate on 2 September 1962, made her first Religious Profession on 3 September 1963 and took the name of Sr. Alessandra. She remained for a number of years at Albano – Mother House, devoting herself generously to the various services needed for the good management of a large community. She stood out particularly in her service in the laundry which she carried out with responsibility, while showing much care and love in every task she undertook.

On 3 September 1968 she made her Perpetual Profession. In 1973 she was sent to the apostolate at S. Maria in Fabriago (RA) where she dedicated herself full time in the pastoral ministry. In 1975 she was transferred to Consandolo (FE) where she was mainly involved in family ministry.

From 1977 to 1978 she stayed at Albano where she undertook further studies and obtained a diploma as kindergarten teacher in order to dedicate with compassion and competence in the education and formation of kindergarten children in various parish communities such as S. Nicola da Crissa (VV); Statte (TA); S. Prospero sulla Secchia (MO); Valbona (PD); Solara (MO); Longa (VI) and Sestri Levante (GE), in which she works from 1978 to 1999. During this long period, at different times she had a sabbatical: first at Albano in 1982 and then at Tor S. Lorenzo in 1992. These were privileged times for updating and for spiritual renewal which Sr. Alessandra accepted and deeply valued.

Sr Alessandra was sociable, though not so communicative, she lived with joy and simplicity her vocation as a Pastorella. She loved prayer, fraternal life and poverty in a special way and stands

out for her sober and industrious life. She is conscious of her gifts and limitations, but applies herself with much good will to be a Pastorella according to the heart of the Good Shepherd. In her writing before the Perpetual Profession, she says: *"It is true that I am still very weak and unable to live my state of life as required, there is need for further effort and perseverance, but I want to trust in God's help and that of the Superiors in order to be a true Pastorella, as the Good Shepherd desires"*.

In April 1999 she asked to transfer from the ICN province to the ICS province in order to assist her elderly and sick parents. Sr. Alessandra dedicated several years of loving care to her family which she lived as an expression of her pastoral mission received directly from the hands of the Good Shepherd. She did not neglect the commitments she assumed with her religious consecration, rather maintained a constant communication with the Congregation; as far as possible joined the fraternal life of the communities of Lamezia and Catanzaro; ensured to have some special moments for her spiritual growth and showed a rare punctuality in submitting her financial statement and administrative management.

In 2009, at the end of her service in the family she joined the community of Catanzaro where, almost immediately, showed symptoms of the disease that would render her increasingly invalid: amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (SLA). Sr. Alessandra lived with serenity her infirmities assisted by her blood sisters, the sisters from the community and the competent medical personnel from the SLA rehabilitation centre. She assumed her condition in union with Jesus Good Shepherd, day after day, till she was totally consumed, surrendering herself to Him the Lord whom she has always sought and loved with all her strength.

Thank you Sr. Alessandra, for the offering of your life as a loving and generous service to the people entrusted to you by the Father, whom today receives you into His arms as beloved daughter. You have lived seeking to please in all things the Good Shepherd, may you now enjoy in fullness what Blessed James Alberione has said to the Pastorelle: *"Let us be pleasing to Jesus! His love will flood our soul and then his love will last forever: Caritas manet in aeternum [cf. 1Cor. 13,13], you will be happy in heaven!"* (AAP 1958, 39).

Now that you enjoy of this Love for ever, intercede for us and for your family members the grace of pleasing Jesus always and in everything!

Sr. Marta Finotelli
Superior General

Rome, 6 September 2012