



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



Last night, 13 November 2012, at 11:30 p.m.

In the community of Tor San Lorenzo,
our Sister **PAOLA GIUDITTA PRADEL**
returned to the Father's House.

She was 86 years old and 59 years of religious life.

"I feel that my life is more and more heading toward the sunset but it will go to the true life in God. I always seek to intensify, with His help, through prayer, my love for Him. I feel that faith is the greatest gift to live; in it, I experience love, union, fraternity with the sisters." What Sr. Paola wrote in February 2010, on the occasion of the canonical visit, is what she actually lived during her long life on earth.

At the beginning of the Year of Faith, Sr. Paola completes her journey of discipleship to Jesus Good Shepherd who presents her to the Father as a joyful and faithful bride, a Pastorella who gave her all and with great generosity until the end.

Giuditta, this is her baptismal name, was born on 15 January 1926 at Transacqua (TN), in a numerous Christian family. Fourth of eight children, she was baptized on 19 January 1926. She grew up in a healthy family atmosphere, typical of the mountain villages, where contact with nature and the journey of faith seem to intertwine and invoke each other. She received Confirmation on 25 September 1932, Giuditta involved herself regularly in her Parish where she matured the religious vocation and entered the Congregation on 16 September 1949 at St. Pietro alle Acque, exactly one year after the opening of a community of the Pastorelle in Transacqua.

After a brief formation period, she was sent to Bieno Valsugana (TN) and in 1951 she was transferred to Saliceto (CN) dedicating herself to the care of the youth in the kindergarten and in accompanying the girls in the Oratory. Here, on 12 June 1953, she made her first profession, taking the name of Sr. Paola. 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. She remained at Saliceto until 1958, the year of her perpetual profession, celebrated at Albano Casa madre on August 2.

The Administration of the Kindergarten school of Saliceto Cuneo, in thanking for the presence of Sr. Paola described her accordingly: *"... in six years spent in Saliceto, she has*

earned the esteem and benevolence of the entire population: she devoted her jovial energies to the proper functioning of the Kindergarten which acquired prestige and dignity; she loved the children even at the sacrifice of her own health and she was generous to the girls of the Oratory and zealous for the service of the Church."

In all the parish communities where she carried out the ministry of pastoral care: at Sedilo (OR) from 1958 to 1969, S. Martino in Campo (PG) from 1969 to 1978, Capoliveri (LI) from 1980 to 1984, Solara (MO) from 1984 to 1989, devoting herself mainly to teaching in the kindergarten and catechesis, Sr. Paola expressed her simplicity and joviality, with the generosity and dedication innate to persons who never think of themselves, but in everything, seek the good of others. With the same simplicity and kindness, she also lived her service as animator with the sisters of the community expressing with joy her love for the Congregation.

From 1978 to 1980 she was at Albano as a student, where she obtained the Nursing Diploma.

For 23 years, since 1989, Sr. Paola was in Tor San Lorenzo (RM), where she continued to give the best of herself in welcoming, firstly the sisters who came for formation courses or for holiday periods and subsequently also to members of the Pauline Family and laity who stayed at the "casa per ferie". Her lively intelligence and creativity in love, despite the infirmities of her advancing age, were expressed in different ways: in the kitchen, preparing various delicious dishes; improvising humorous skits that brighten the hearts of those who were in the house; in fidelity to her life of prayer and in the care of fraternal relations.

Even in the last two months, since the onset of leukemia, Sr. Paola, expressed profound gratitude to the people who visited her, the doctors and nurses who accompanied her until her deathbed. In particular, she expressed gratitude to the sisters of the community who with great tenderness and love, looked after her in an exemplary manner.

To you, Sr. Paola, now that you can see your Guardian Angel, whom you were particularly devoted, we say our thanks for your testimony of joyful and prolific faith. To you, together with the Pastorelle who preceded you, we wish that you enjoy the "true life in God," and sing with them: "*The Lord has done great things for us, we rejoice and are glad*" (Ps. 125, 3).

We entrust to your intercession the needs of each Pastorella, your family, the Congregation, the Pauline Family, the whole Church and humanity always in need to encounter the Risen Lord as the full sense of life.

We will miss your funny laughter and we rejoice to know that now you can do it with all your loved ones who contemplate with you the Face of the Shepherd Beautiful!

Thank you, Sr. Paola!

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 14 November 2012
St. Gregory Palamas, Monk and Pastor