



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



Yesterday, 17 February 2013, at 11:15 a.m.

In the community of Albano Casa madre,
our Sister **TECLA ANTONIETTA MAZZEI**

returned to the Father's House.

She was 93 years old and 59 years of religious life.

On the First Sunday of Lent, when the whole Church enters a time of special grace to prepare to live Easter, our sister Tecla was called by the Father to celebrate the Passover and to join the other Pastorelle in Heaven, to sing eternally the joy of belonging to Jesus Good Shepherd.

Antoinetta was born on 7 January 1920 at Marciana Marina, Isola d'Elba (LI). She was baptized on 1 February of the same year in the parish of Marciana Marina. Aided by the testimony of the family, she participated in the parish, where she received the Confirmation on 15 June 1931 and matured her religious vocation. She came to know the Pastorelle Sisters in 1945 when they opened a community in her own town.

She joined the Congregation in Genzano on April 7, 1951. In 1952, the community moved to Albano - Stella and in 1953, on June 12, in the new Mother House of Albano Laziale, she made her first profession, taking the name of Tecla.

In a letter to Primo Master after the first profession, she wrote: *"Thank you very much for accepting me to be among the number of newly-professed. A great grace of the Lord. Every day I feel more happy and with the help of divine grace, I desire to be true to what I promised"*.

Sr. Tecla spent in the community of the Mother House all the years of her religious life, a long time that the Lord granted to her and she remained faithful until the end, showing a great love for the Institute. With maturity that characterized her, she immediately made herself available to the needs of a community so numerous as what Albano was during those years. She carried out various tasks in the service of the community and of the Sisters of the Congregation who at that time, were increasing rapidly in number and expanded in the different regions of Italy and in the world. On August 2, 1958 she made her perpetual profession at Albano.

From her earliest years in the Congregation, Sr. Tecla is distinguished by her sense of responsibility. She has a good religious spirit manifested through a great generosity and dedication to the many activities that were necessary without sparing herself. Helpful and reliable, we remember her in particular as a nurse, always attentive to the necessities of the Sisters in need of care, both those residing in the Mother House or those from the apostolic communities.

She also carried out the service as treasurer of the community, putting in use her good intelligence, characterized by a great practical sense. She also took dressmaking course, making use of her talents in this field. Anyone who went to the Mother House knew that she could count on her help and availability.

In her nearly sixty years of religious life lived in the Mother House, Sr. Tecla was able to express the pastoral spirit within the Congregation in her constant and vigilant attention to the Sisters, devoting herself with untiring care until the spring of 2004, when she felt ill and was hospitalized for over a month at the "*Regina Apostolorum*" Hospital of Albano. After a careful clinical research, she was diagnosed with involuntal ischemic encephalopathy. A crippling disease that changed radically the pace of her life and made her in need of everything, for nine years. Now the Sisters can express toward Sr. Tecla what she gave them for many years of ministry in the house.

In the early years of her sickness, she participated with lucidity in the community life and continued to show interest in the events of the fraternal life, but she gradually became more and more weak to the point of needing constant assistance. She was accompanied and assisted with great care and dedication, moment by moment, by the Sisters of the Mother House.

Earlier this year, she was unable to speak anymore, yet showed to be still vigilant. On 11 February, on the occasion of the World Day of the Sick, she received the anointing of the sick and nearly a week later, she died peacefully, consumed by age and sickness as a lighted candle for God and for the entire humanity, giving all its light until the last resource.

Thank you, Sr. Tecla for your hidden life but pastorally full, lived in the loving care of all the people who have passed in the Mother House. Many of us, in different ways, were able to enjoy your loving presence.

Now the Good Shepherd whom you loved in this life, together with his Mother, the Virgin Mary, welcome you in his arms and presents you to the Father in order to receive the reward promised to those who have lived the faith in love, walking in his footsteps as the good and compassionate Shepherd.

Sr. Marta Finotelli
superior general

Salta, Argentina, 18 February 2013