



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



Today, October 22, 2019 at 10:40 AM  
in the community of Negrar (VR),  
our sister

**ANTONIA, Sr BERTILLA PADOVANI**

returned to the Father's house.

She was 93 years old and 64 years of religious life.

*Be vigilant at all times and pray that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man.* The words of this verse before the Gospel can describe Sr Bertilla's surrender to the mercy of the Father who on this day called her to contemplate his Face and found her in prayerful vigil of a life donated in following Jesus Good Shepherd and as a Pastorella, also in sickness, in the daily offering.

Antonia was born in Bonavigo (VR) on October 13, 1926, and after eleven days she was baptized in the parish church of her native town. She entered the Congregation in Genzano on May 24, 1952. At the end of the Novitiate, on September 03, 1955 in Albano Laziale - Mother House – she had the first religious profession, taking the name sr Bertilla, and five years after the perpetual profession.

Sr Bertilla engaged as a cook, in different communities, for almost all of her life she performed this service in constant donation to others. The places in which she lived her mission were: 1955 in Sedilo (OR); 1958 in Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD); 1973 in Premadio Valdidentro (SO); 1974 in Albano Lazio - Mother house available for various tasks; 1975 in Corbola (RO); 1980 in Castel D'Azzano (VR); 1984 in Bonavigo (VR); 1986 in Vicenza, parish of St. Augustine, where she did family ministry. Since 2004 she has been at Negrar (VR) due to the precarious state of her health.

Sr Bertilla is remembered for her generosity in community life and in the apostolate. She was seen speeding through the streets of the village by bicycle, a means of transport she preferred, both to visit the families and elders of the parish, where she was working, and to bring to the sisters of the community what Providence gives.

Sr Bertilla was a woman of simple faith witnessed in daily life and through prayer. She had a profound look and a bright smile that express the inner joy that is within her. Although she was suffering from paraplegia she experienced the long illness with serenity, gratefully accepting all the care she was given. Even when the infirmity prevented her from communicating as before, her serene face and meekness managed to convey what words can no longer express. She often manifested her trust in the Good Shepherd and her gratitude to the sisters, who lovingly offered her all the care she needed throughout the course of her illness. We thank the sisters for the dedication and love with which they accompanied Sr Bertilla.

We bless Jesus good Shepherd for the life of Sr Bertilla and for the testimony of assiduous faith. We entrust to her intercession the journey of the Church and, in particular, every Pastorella and every member of the Pauline Family so that we can grow more and more in love with the pastoral mission entrusted to us.

*Sr. Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Adelaide (Australia), 22 October 2019  
St John Paul II