



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



Last night, 23 August 2016, at 10.30 p.m. Italian time  
and 5.30 a.m. Korean time of today  
in “Don Calabria” Hospital of Negrar (VR)  
our sister **MARIA TERESA SR CHIARA ZANELLA**  
went back to the Father.

She was 78 years old and 54 years of religious life.

*“I desire to be consecrated forever to Jesus Good Shepherd. With the grace of God, I will be a true Pastorella and I will totally donate myself for the salvation of souls, so too to the Institute unconditionally”. Thus Sr. Chiara wrote in 1961 for the admission to first profession and so today her wish was truly fully realized in fidelity to Jesus Good Shepherd who presents her to the Father with joy.*

Maria Teresa was born in San Giorgio di Mantova (MN) on 1 February 1938 and was baptized on 6 February.

Last of four children, she was brought up in a Christian family, where she participated with coherence and fidelity to the Church’s life, Chiara as a child breathed a sense of duty and desire to do everything well. She lived with interest what the parish community proposed, loved work and took seriously every little task, until the maturation of her religious vocation which she embraced with joy and determination.

She entered the Congregation on 19 April 1958 in Albano (RM) – Casa madre, where she received her early training and joined the Novitiate on 2 September 1960. The following year, 3 September she made her first profession and took the name of Chiara. Immediately she was sent to the apostolate in Cinte Tesino (TN), where she remained until perpetual profession which she did at Albano on 3 September 1966.

She spent her early years of ministry of pastoral care as an educator. In fact, after five years in the kindergarten in Cinte Tesino, she spent almost thirty in Pressano Lavis (TN), where she devoted herself with passion to the education of children from 1965 to 1992, and in this community, she was also superior for ten years. Then, for another year, she taught kindergarten in Trento before being called in the Provincial house in Verona to help in the financial service and in the secretariat. Here she remained from 1993 to 1997. She carried

out her service with strong sense of responsibility, accuracy and confidentiality, aspects that characterized her personality and her manner of expressing love.

Sr. Chiara is a very tender-hearted woman, inhabited by the sense of duty and always attentive to others with a discreet love, almost shy, but she knew how to cope with firmness on everything. She manifested it well even in living her illness until the end. She was demanding with her own self and with others, she expressed her strength of will always for the good and in order to praise and bless the Lord in every circumstance of her life.

After spending a sabbatical period in the community of Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd in Negrar in 1998, she was sent to the community of Frassino (MN) until 2000, where she devoted herself in the liturgical animation, to catechesis in the preparation for the sacraments, the family ministry and visiting the sick, the ministry which she also carried out for ten years until 2010, also in Cadè (MN). Here for six years, she also assumed the responsibility of animation to the community, demonstrating once again with her life, fidelity to prayer, love for the religious family and acceptance of each sister that the Lord placed at her side. Since 2010 she is in Negrar, with the particular task in the secretariat and in the accounting, but was also available the service of welcoming and reliable in any other service necessary for the good management of a large community, composed mostly of sick sisters.

A few days before I left for my visit to the sisters in Korea, I made a phone call to her; Sr. Chiara, a bit panting because of pancreatic cancer that had already invaded her lungs, assured me: *"I offer everything to the Lord for your visit, for vocations, for the Congregation"* and with her usual tenacity adds *"my only regret is not to be more of help to the sisters, but each time I am recharged, I go down to help. The Lord sees and knows."*

Yes, Sr. Chiara did not spare herself in donating to the last and struggled with her sickness until she could. Grateful to God for everything and aware of her merciful presence in her life, Sr. Chiara passed away assisted with fondness by the sisters of the Province, she passed away out like a lamp that has now consumed all the oil to offer light remaining in the hands of the Good Shepherd.

Thank you Sr. Chiara, for your witness of life and for accompanying us more closely in the journey toward the forthcoming General Chapter. Now you can see the face of the One who says to you once again: *"Arise my friend, my sister get up, arise my beautiful and come."* He speaks about us Pastorelle and our desire to become more and more mothers and sisters of His people.

*Sr. Marta Finotelli*  
superior general

Seoul, 24 August 2016  
*Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle*