



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



Today at 9.05 a.m.
at the "Sacro Cuore" Hospital of Negrar (VR)
SR PIERA AGNESE ROSSETTO
went back to the Father.
She was 70 years and 51 years of religious life.

The surprises of God accompany our days and today in particular the day of Sr. Piera was filled with a very special light: the call to enter the Heavenly Jerusalem, precisely at the conclusion of the Year dedicated to the Consecrated Life and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple.

"I feel serene. I want to do the will of God because - in the words of the Founder - to do God's is the purest act of love", thus she told me a few days ago, during a brief visit that I made to the Hospital of Negrar. And so handing over herself to the Lord's will, Sr. Piera concluded her earthly life, a life truly spent for Jesus Good Shepherd: *"I did not spare myself in nothing"* this was the best thing that she lived, she confided to me and this is the testimony that she left to us.

Born on 15 March 1945 in Villamarzana (RO), in a Christian family of Polesine, Agnese was baptized on 23 March 1945, the youngest of five children. She experienced pain due to his father's death, when she was still very young and at the age of fourteen she decided to dedicate herself to the Lord. She entered the Congregation on 7 October 1959 in Albano Casa Madre (RM), and due to her young age, she waited a few years before entering the Novitiate on 2 September 1963 at Albano.

In her application for admission to first profession in July 1964 she wrote: *"With the help of God's grace, I commit myself to strive constantly to seek the most perfect, to become a saint. I also have another big desire: the mission. I always wanted this since childhood, but for a long time now, this became a torment. The thought of being a missionary very soon always emerges."* So, Agnese on 3 September 1964 at Albano made her first profession, taking the name of Sr. Piera and spent another three years in Casa Madre to prepare herself for the mission so desired. She finished Diploma in Education. In November 1967 she left for Cúcuta - Colombia, where two years later on 3 September 1969, she made the perpetual profession.

Until January 1972, Sr. Piera lived the ministry of pastoral care in the Cathedral parish of Cucuta, devoting herself mainly to catechesis and liturgical animation. Her passion for the mission made her willing and prepared for a new foundation, always in Latin America, to Araure in Venezuela, where she carried out the service of the superior of the community and dedicated herself mainly to teaching in the elementary school until September 1979.

She returned to Italy for the purpose of study and remained for four years: one year in Casa Madre and three years in Rome - Via Traversari. In 1983 she finished the Licentiate in Religious Sciences and went back, as her desire on the mission. She remained in Cúcuta until 1987 but she was forced to return to Italy to assist her sick mother.

From 1988 to 1999 she remained in Rome at the Generalate as an assistant in the General Secretariat, also offering a beautiful pastoral presence in Our Lady of Carmel parish, accompanying the parish liturgical group. In these years she devoted herself to the deepening of the preaching of Blessed James Alberione and perfected the use of the instruments of social communication, which she willingly put at the service of the Congregation, in the General Secretariat and in the parish catechesis. These were years in which Sr. Piera grew in “studiosità”, that is learning from everything and from everyone, as the Founder demanded and she also grew in knowing and loving more and more all the Pauline Family.

From 1999 to 2005 she carried out the pastoral work in the parish community of Borgaretto (TO) and at the same time, lived her first term as Provincial Councilor, from 2001 to 2005, which she continued until 2009 and moved to Verona in the Provincial house, as Councilor for a second term and also as the Provincial secretary.

Sr Piera with her great love to the charism and to the Founder devoted herself with availability and responsibility to the work entrusted to her, be it in the pastoral, or in internal services to the Congregation truly without sparing herself. Sober in her style of life, animated by a strong will to give herself without reserve, she is distinguished by fidelity to prayer, love for the community and the apostolate, accompanied by generosity, an example to the people with whom she lived, both in the religious communities and in the parishes.

In 2009 she was inserted in the community of Fiorenzuola D'Arda (PC) where she remained until October 2015 before going to Negrar (VR) for extensive medical check-ups due to some tedious pain which she already felt for some months, but without losing the pastoral passion as ever, rather giving herself up to the last, to the listening and care of people in the parish office, in catechesis, liturgical animation as was her custom. Her health situation however presented its severity: cancer of the pancreas which constrained her to leave the parish quickly and to undergo treatment which unfortunately were ineffective.

Hidden but fruitful, just like a seed that fell on good soil, Sr. Piera leaves us a sign of profound pastoral charity, lived in joy and simplicity of every day.

Before leaving her last January 25, when I asked what message she would like to leave the sisters, she told me: *“That they may increasingly be linked to the Lord and live faith, hope and charity.”*

Sr Piera, while we say thank you for the example of life that you leave us, we ask you to intercede for us in this year of Mercy, what you lived and which the Founder asked to each Pastorella: *“Do not be firecrackers but living lamps around Jesus, hearts ablaze for the love of God and souls”*¹.

Sr Marta Finotelli
Superior general

Rome, 2 February 2016
Presentation of the Lord

¹ PrP, VIII, 1956, p. 17.