



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



Today, 11 March 2024 at 12.40 pm
in the Generalate community – Rome, our sister
GIULIETTA, Sr M. SPERANZA CIACCHINI
has parted this earthly life.
She was 78 years old and 59 years of religious life.

As we entrust our sister, Giulietta, to the Father’s mercy, we hear the words of the Psalmist from today’s liturgy: *I praise you, Lord, for you raised me up.* These words evoke the faith and joy that Sr Giulietta radiated in her community and apostolic life on the eve of her sixtieth anniversary of consecration among the Pastorelle.

Sr Giulietta was born in Bonavigo (VR) on 13 June 1945 and was baptized on 17 June of the same year in the Parish of San Giovanni Battista, in her hometown.

She entered the Congregation on 23 August 1961 at Albano Laziale-Mother House and the novitiate on 02 September 1963. She made her first profession on 03 September 1964, taking the name of Sr M. Speranza. On 3 September 1969, she took her perpetual vows again in Albano Laziale – Mother House. In her letter for admission to the perpetual profession, she wrote: *I thank Jesus Good Shepherd for the great gift of the vocation of Pastorella. I understand the beauty and at the same time the responsibility of the vocation of being a Pastorella and therefore I desire, as much as I can, to correspond to the grace of God.*

From the time of her initial formation, Sr Giulietta has been described as a sister of prayer, of assiduous spiritual work, generous, capable of sacrifice, cordial with everyone, responsible, consistent, sociable, obedient, charitable, and having a sense of duty. Her love for the Congregation and passion for the pastoral mission made her always available to respond generously to community and apostolic needs.

After her first profession, she was sent to the community of Ricigliano (SA), where she remained for the entire time of her juniorate. In 1969, after her perpetual profession, she was sent to Pannarano (BN), and in 1974 she returned to Albano Laziale – Mother House for a period of study. In 1976 she carried out her pastoral ministry in Novoledo (VI) and was also superior of the community. In 1981 she was transferred to Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI), where she dedicated herself mainly to kindergarten teaching. In 1996 she had a sabbatical in the community of Negrar (VR) and was subsequently transferred to Corbola (RO) where she resumed Kindergarten teaching and was also superior of the community.

In 2008 she left as a missionary for Bolivia where she remained in the community of Yacuiba for eight years, living her mission with generosity, industriousness, and joy. During her time of preparation for the mission, she wrote to the sisters of the Circumscription: *I am very happy to be part of the Argentina-Bolivia Delegation. Now I am preparing with much joy, prayer, and enthusiasm.* These years imprinted a universal love of the mission in the heart of Sr Giulietta and opened her to the wonder of a pastoral charism that is embodied in the richness of all people.

In 2017, due to some health problems, she returned to Italy and once again her generous heart led her to say yes to the request to be part of the Generalate Community, where she would carry out her pastoral ministry in loving and caring welcome towards all and in the pastoral care of the sick in the parish of San Bruno. This ministry, she carried out until the end, even though in the last year she has had a delicate operation due to cancer and the often very demanding treatment that followed. In her illness, she was able to experience a profound and progressive surrender, abandoning herself to the Lord without ever stopping to think and pray for the mission. She offered everything for the Congregation and for the mission, in particular for her beloved Bolivia, from where in recent days have poured messages of encouragement for her and of gratitude for her teachings and for her being a mother to them.

The sisters testify of Sr Giulietta: *she was a precious gift for us, a sister who knew how to sacrifice herself for the good of others, always attentive to people and caring. She loved to pray and praise the Lord with her singing. She had great faith in the Word of God and in the Eucharist. She loved our charism and lived it throughout her life with a full missionary spirit. She always had a positive outlook towards the sisters and the Congregation. She took the projects and dreams of the community and her religious family seriously. She loved harmony, peace, and silence. She was humble, attentive, helpful, confident, and joyful. She was reserved, discreet, determined, precise, and attentive to the signs of the times. She liked to follow the news and she was interested in the lives of people, of our sisters, of the world. She never neglected to dedicate the best times of the day for her daily encounter with the Lord and she expressed this relationship with Him in her relationships with people: her gentle nature and her closeness to the sick or needy people of the parish, her love for singing and liturgy well celebrated. She has left us a beautiful testimony of Pastorella and she taught us to live both in joy and pain. She expressed the joy of belonging to the Generalate community and she felt proud to be "in the heart of the Congregation" as she liked to define it.*

I thank every sister of the Generalate community and of the community of via Traversari who in her time of illness supported Sr Giulietta with love, generosity, and great dedication. Our thanks to her sister, Sr Adriana, and to the sisters of the IT-AL-MZ Province who in various ways supported Sr Giulietta in her times of trial. Our gratitude to the "*Fondazione Sanità e Ricerca*" for the home care provided with professionalism and great humanity.

While we entrust Sr Giulietta to the Father's mercy and thank the Good Shepherd for the wonderful gift she was for us, we ask you, dearest "Giuli" to intercede for us the gift of conversion, fidelity, and vocations.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

11 March 2024, Rome
St Constantine, martyr