



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

(RoL 24)



Today, 01 July 2023, at 08.45 am,  
at the Villa delle Querce-Nemi (RM) Hospital, our sister  
**ANNA, sr M. CARMEN DI MAIO**  
passed away from her earthly life.  
She was 84 years old and 58 years of Religious Life.

With Abraham's words given to us today in the first reading, *My Lord, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass by without stopping by your servant*, we can describe Sr Carmen as a Pastorella who was open to welcoming the Lord at all times and everyone she met along her journey.

Anna was born in Gragnano (NA) on 30 January 1939 and was baptized in the parish church of Gragnano dedicated to Saint John the Baptist on 12 February 1939. She entered the Congregation in Albano Laziale-Casa Madre on 15 December 1962 and on 02 September 1963 she entered the novitiate. She made her first profession on 03 September 1964 and her perpetual profession on 03 September 1969, again in Albano Laziale.

Sr Carmen remained in Albano Laziale to study until she obtained her degree in pedagogy. These studies, she put at the service of both the Congregation and the ministry of education that she carried out in different realities.

Sr Carmen is described as a prayerful sister and one who had a great love for the Congregation. She was simple, joyful, welcoming, sociable, and a lover of community life. She passionately lived the two dimensions of love; love of God and love of God's people. Even in the precariousness of her health this love and this offering did not fail but continued to be manifested in the small tasks she carried out with generosity and creativity. In some circumstances, her joyful touch and Neapolitan singing were obvious.

After completing her studies, Sr Carmen spent her life in various communities, several times fulfilling the service of community superior and teacher in elementary and middle schools. From 1973 to 1980 she was in Caltagirone (CT); 1980, she spent a sabbatical year in Albano

Laziale (RM); 1981 Pannarano (BN); 1983 Pescara; 1986 Foggia; 1989 Reggio Calabria; 1997 Pescara; 2000 Castellammare di Stabia (NA); 2006 Lavorate (SA) and 2009 in Castellammare di Stabia (NA). In 2015 she returned to Albano Laziale (RM) to the Provincial house and from 2016 she belonged to the Community of Mother House in Albano Laziale.

*This is how some sisters testify: Sr Carmen lived the various health problems she had with serenity. She always showed herself to be a joyful Pastorella, who loved her vocation and was available to meet the needs of the sisters. Having met her in Albano, she left me a great example of acceptance and surrender to the Good Shepherd in her illness. She said: "Here we lack nothing. I feel well cared for and looked after".*

*Another sister who shared the pastoral mission with Sr Carmen testifies: she was a sister in love with her vocation, generous, always cheerful, and always straining forward. She disliked half measures; she was open to dialogue in the community and in her pastoral collaboration. She was much loved, even as a teacher.*

*One other sister said: She was president of Catholic Action and I was an aspirant. Carmen was very good, a capable person, and full of enthusiasm. We used to joyfully participate in the big and lively Catholic Action Group. She was my pedagogy teacher when I was studying to be a teacher. We caught up with each other again here in Albano in 2015; in these years we have faced joys and suffering together. Life in a community requires acceptance and sharing of both beautiful moments and difficult days. Carmen tried to focus on the positive.*

We entrust Sr Carmen to the Father's Mercy, thanking him for the gift of her life as a joyful and faithful Pastorella. We ask her to intercede for the abundance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the Chapter Event that we are currently experiencing as a Congregation.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes  
Superior General

Rome, 01 July 2023