



"Faith in the resurrection
opens us to fraternal
communion, beyond the
threshold of death"
(RdV 24)



Monday, 31 December 2018 at 10.30 am
in the hospital of Negrar (Verona), our sister
ROSANNA SR M. ILARIA BENEDETTI
returned to the Father's House.
She was 79 years old and 55 years of Religious Life.

In the words of the Collect: *"Almighty ever-living God, who in the Nativity of your Son established the beginning and fulfilment of all religion, grant that we be numbered among those who belong to Him"*, we entrust to the Father's mercy our sister Rosanna who on this last day of the year, was called to contemplate "face to face" of the Good Shepherd whom she always searched and loved.

Out of respect for Sr Rosanna's wishes, we will recall only the essentials of her profile. Rosanna was born on 30 June 1939 in Verona, the first of three siblings, and baptized the 8 June in the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta in Verona. She entered the Congregation, at the age of 22, after obtaining a Diploma in Commerce, on 2 September 1961 in Albano Laziale - Mother House, where she did her initial formation, starting her novitiate on 2 September 1962. On 3 September of the following year, she made her first profession and took the name Sr M. Ilaria. After her profession, Sr Rosanna remained in Albano as a teacher to help Sisters of the Congregation in their preparation and at the same time obtaining a Diploma in Religious Studies. Sr Rosanna left as a missionary for Australia on 26 September 1972, living in Thornbury and in 1974 in Thomastown to do pastoral work among Italian migrants.

Appointed as secretary general in 1975, she returned to Albano where she stayed until 1980, and then transferred to the Generalate in Rome – Eur Mostacciano. In 1981, she became part of the community of Saliceto Panaro (MO). In 1984, appointed as provincial councilor, she carried out this service while remaining in the apostolic community of Florence. Over the years, 1981-1987, Sr Rosanna collaborated with the ecclesial movement for a Better World and from 1987 to 1999 performed the service as councillor general. From 1999 to 2001, she lived in Tor San Lorenzo (RM) and in the last year was superior of the community. Later she

was assigned in different communities; Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI) in 2001; Vicenza as superior of the community in 2003. In 2013, having to perform the duties of both provincial councillor and provincial secretary, she resided in the Provincial house in Verona. In 2017, at the end of her service in provincial governance, she was assigned in the community of Negrar (VR) in order to receive the necessary treatment due to her poor health.

Sr Rosanna loved and served both the Congregation, in different ways, and the Consecrated Life through preparation and as a facilitator of General Chapters for various Religious Institutes. She wrote some useful texts for the pilgrimages of the Pauline family, and gave a valuable contribution for several years towards the magazine *Il Cooperatore Paolino (The Pauline Cooperator)*.

In these last days, Sr Rosanna told me and authorized me to share the following: *I experience a deep joy because during this time of illness I have celebrated in an intense way the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick in the community. I feel a profound and indescribable joy living as a "reconciled person" and I wish for every Pastorella and every person, to experience this great joy of living "as reconciled persons". This is a gift from God.*

We thank all the sisters, doctors and nursing staff that in this time of particular trial took care of Sr Rosanna with tenderness and gratitude. Let us entrust to Sr Rosanna the intentions of Pope Francis and the new year of grace given to us as a Congregation on the journey with the humanity of our time.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 31 December 2018
Octave of Christmas