



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



Today, 13 May 2024, at 7.00 pm  
in the community of Albano Laziale (RM) – Mother House, our sister

**AURORA, Sr. MARIA GIOVANNA GAFFURINI**

has parted this earthly life.

She was 99 years old and 70 years of religious life.

*If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is.* With these words from today's Gospel acclamation, we thank the Good Shepherd for the gift of Sr Giovanna's life who leaves us the testimony of a Pastorella who was faithful to the gift received, and caring in serving with joy and generosity.

Aurora, the last of three daughters, was born on 14 May 1925 in Rezzato (BS) and was baptized on 25 May 1925 in Rezzato in the Parish of San Giovanni Battista. She entered the Congregation in Genzano (RM) on 15 June 1948 and received the religious habit in Massa Martana - S. Pietro alle Acque (PG) on 27 September 1948. In 1950 she was sent to Rio Elba (LI) and in 1951 she was transferred to Sedilo (OR) where she made her first profession on 12 June 1953, taking the name of Sr Maria Giovanna. On 2 August 1958, she took her perpetual vows in Albano – Mother House.

Sr Giovanna is described as a prayerful sister, with a great capacity for relationships within and outside the community. She was joyful, loved singing, generous, and tireless in serving. She expressed the joy of living in the apostolate and had no preferences for places or pastoral contexts because she could live our vocation fully wherever she was. Sr Giovanna carried out her pastoral ministry in various parishes where she also served as a kindergarten teacher: 1955 in Cassina De 'Pecchi (MI); 1956 Longa (VI); 1958 Sedilo (OR); 1959 Albano Laziale – Mother House (RM); 1960 Gizzeria (CZ); 1964 Cardinal (CZ); 1976 Sedilo (OR); 1977 Carbonara di Po (MN); 1978 Soave Mantovano (MN); 1987 Peonis (UD) and in 1988 she returned to the Mother House – Albano Laziale where she dedicated herself with love and generosity to caring for our sick sisters.

Sr Giovanna is described as a sister who held a special place within each of our hearts... *she taught us so much: her extraordinary ability to live relationships with the sisters and with people in the apostolate, her active listening to understand the problems she was shared, and her ability to deal*

*positively with every situation. She was a champion in generosity, a rock and nothing could stop her. And what to say of the joy she expressed in animating songs and feast days? She was always ready to transmit joy. Giovanna no doubt had her limitations, but her exuberance of character made up for them. These last few years have been important for me, in that I was able to get a little closer to her. It was simply a grace and a great opportunity also for my spiritual life. We rejoiced together, we sang together, we prayed together, even though in these last months, I'm sure she followed me with her mind because she could no longer speak. I experienced her decline month by month, day by day, moment by moment until this afternoon when her breathing became heavier. I said goodbye to her, but I felt that she was already taking her last steps to meet the Good Shepherd who she always loved.*

We thank the Community of Albano and, in a special way, those who in the past few years have taken care of Sr Giovanna with love and dedication.

Dearest Sister Giovanna, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank you for your testimony as a faithful and joyful Pastorella and ask you to intercede for the gift of Peace.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Rome, 13 May 2024  
*Our Lady of Fatima*