



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



Today, 31 December 2025, at 11.45 am (local time),
at the Mother House - Albano Laziale (RM), our sister
PIERA, Sr M. CELESTE SPANU
has parted this earthly life.
She was 88 years old and 66 years of religious life.

Today, as we thank the Lord for the gift of Sr Piera's vocation as a Pastorella, we pray with the psalmist, the prayer we see reflected throughout her sixty-six years of consecrated life, made fruitful by her serene trust in the Good Shepherd: *Sing to the Lord, bless his name, proclaim his salvation day after day.*

Piera was born on 2 March 1937, in Cabras (OR) and baptized on 29 March of the same year, in her hometown parish, dedicated to Maria Assunta. She entered the Congregation at the Albano Laziale Mother House on 15 January 1956, and entered the novitiate on 2 September 1958. She made her first profession on 3 September 1959, taking the name Sr Maria Celeste. After her first profession, she was sent to the community of Borgo Milano (VR) and in 1962 returned to the Mother House for a period of study.

She made her perpetual profession on 3 September 1964, in Albano Laziale and returned to the community of Borgo Milano (VR), where she carried out her apostolate in the kindergarten and parish.

Sister Piera is described as a *simple, prayerful person, of few words, discreet, and attentive to her sisters and the people of the parish.*

She cultivated great gratitude and affection for the Primo Maestro and sought to live out his instructions to fully express her vocation as a Pastorella.

After her pastoral experience in Borgo Milano (VR), she was involved in various communities, where she primarily dedicated herself to family ministry: 1973 Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI); 1979 Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD); 1980 Albano Laziale – Mother House; 1983 Tor San Lorenzo (RM) for a

sabbatical year; 1984 Sestri Levante (GE); 1985 Albano Laziale – Mother House; 1986 Oristano (OR); 1988 Albano Laziale – Mother House; 1989 Cornacervina (FE); 1991 Sestri Levante (GE); 1997 Albano Laziale – Mother House; 2001 Lavorate (SA); 2002 Castellammare – Annunziatella (NA) and in 2006 she returned to Albano Laziale where she remained performing small services. In her final years, she received the care that her age and state of health required. We thank the sisters and staff who always, but especially in her final months, patiently, generously, and lovingly gave all the attention that Sr. Piera needed.

Even during her illness, when possible, she showed interest in the sisters and expressed her gratitude,

Sr Piera, in one of her manuscripts, describes the Pastorella's apostolate: *The Pastorella will have a motherly love for all souls, but this love, if she truly wants to do good, must be strong and selfless, so she will not help souls for her own gain or to be praised, but solely for God. [...] May her heart be big and open to all needs, and where her works fail, may she reach them with her prayers, may she show special concern for the wounded sheep and seek out the erring ones. May her desire always be to bring everyone to Jesus, and her ideal to quickly form one flock under one Shepherd. [...] The form of apostolate that I like best and to which I feel inclined is that of contemplation and suffering, combined with evangelization; that is, I would like to bring the Word of Jesus everywhere, to make Him known and loved. [...] Virtues a Novice must possess: those of the Good Shepherd: meek and humble, sincere, simple, loving sacrifice, quick, cheerful, and with a great spirit of adaptability.* (Sr Piera Spanu – April 1959)

To you, dear Sr Piera, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank you for the gift of your vocation as a Pastorella and ask you to intercede for the entire human family a heart that is "unarmed and disarming heart" that will put an end to all wars in the world.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 31 December 2025
7th Day in the octave of Christmas