



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



Today, 20 March 2026 at 4.00 pm (local time),  
in the community of Mother House – Albano Laziale, our sister

**ELISA, Sr. M. GIANFRANCA ATZEI TERESA,**

has parted this earthly life.

She was 92 years old and 66 years of religious life.

*Your word, Lord, is truth: consecrate us in the truth.* In this time of preparation for Pentecost, the Father called to Himself our sister Elisa, who followed the Good Shepherd, Truth, Way, and Life, in her consecration as a faithful Pastorella.

Elisa was born on 5 September 1933, in Marrubiu (OR) and was baptized on 16 September of the same year, in the parish of the Virgin of Monserrato, in her hometown. She entered the Congregation on 10 March 1956, at the Mother House in Albano Laziale. She entered the Novitiate on 2 September 1958, and on 3 September also at the Mother House in Albano Laziale, she made her first profession, taking the name of Sister Maria Gianfranca.

From her initial formation, she was described as a person of profound piety and excellent spirit, of a good, calm, and thoughtful nature, with great initiative in the apostolate. She demonstrated great love for the Congregation and community life. She loved poverty and was capable of making sacrifices.

After her first profession, she carried out her pastoral ministry in Cardinale (CZ) as a kindergarten teacher. In 1962, she was transferred to Conche di Codevigo (PD) and the following year, she was sent to Villamarzana (RO). She made her perpetual profession on 3 September 1964, at the Mother House in Albano Laziale and was immediately sent to Carbonara Po (MN), where she also served as superior of the community. In 1970, she moved to Todi (PG), where she primarily served as a kindergarten teacher.

In 1971, she returned to Albano Laziale – Mother House, for a study period, and from 1974 onwards, she dedicated herself to teaching. She subsequently remained in the Casa Madre community, doing various services. When her health became fragile, she received all the care she needed. We thank all the sisters and external staff who, with great patience and generosity, cared for Sister Elisa and supported her with their closeness.

The Sisters testify: *I carry with me a fairly recent memory of a meeting where she expressed a strong sense of gratitude for everything that was happening around her. Looking at the Crucifix, she said: "See, He suffered so much for me. Now it's my turn. I unite and offer everything to the Mystery of His Passion."*

*She worked well and competently in the school... she has had many trials in life, including health problems that did not spare her.*

*We did our formation together. The Primo Maestro's frequent visits filled us with joy and enthusiasm. I remember Sister Elisa as someone attentive to the little things, who loved beauty and elegance. In the novitiate, she was the sacristan, and from her we learned to tastefully decorate our chapel. She was a generous, strong, and determined sister, clear in her choices, always for the glory of God.*

*She was a "Pastorella" according to the heart of the Good Shepherd, both in the community and in her service as a kindergarten teacher, and teaching catechism in the parish. She was a woman of prayer. She spoke kindly through her smile, and was profound... even in illness, she managed to smile. She ended her earthly life serenely.*

Dearest Sister Elisa, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank him for your faithfulness to the love of the Good Shepherd and we ask you to intercede for the gift of holy and good vocations for our Congregation, for the Pauline Family, and for the entire Church.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Seoul (Korea), 20 May 2026  
*St Bernardine of Siena, priest*