



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



Today, 23 December 2025, at 9.45 am (local time),
at the Mother House - Albano Laziale (RM), our sister

MARIA, Sr M. CARMELA CAMMARATA

has parted this earthly life.

She was 99 years old and 72 years of religious life.

"All the ways of the Lord are love and faithfulness." These words of the psalmist describe Sr Maria Carmela's 72 years as a faithful Pastorella, who confidently walked the paths of love and faithfulness of the Good Shepherd.

Maria was born on 1 October 1926, in San Cataldo (CL) and baptized on 3 October of the same year in her hometown parish, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. She entered the Congregation on 16 March 1950 in Genzano (RM), was sent to Medolla (MO), and in 1952 to Cardinale (CZ). On 7 October 1953, in Massa Martana (PG), after a course of spiritual exercises, Maria, along with the first group of Pastorelle Sisters, professed simple and public vows before Blessed Alberione. The date of her first vows, 12 June 1953, in Cardinale (CZ), remains the official date. With her religious profession, she took the name Sr Maria Carmela.

Sr Carmela, in one of her writings, recalls her story and describes her encounter with the Primo Maestro, at the origin of her vocation: *The Lord chose Maria Cammarata, then Sister Carmela, through her religious profession, chose me, not because I was the best, but because he had special loving plans for me. Through the parish priest, Father Gaetano, he entrusted me with activities to carry out in the parish, which I fulfilled for 14 years with prayer, zeal, love, and sacrifice. On 16 March 1950, accompanied by a relative of the PDDM, I presented myself to the Founder in Rome... He said to me, "Come, I have been waiting for you for a long time." And after a long conversation, he stood up, approached me, and placing his right hand on my head and his left on the globe he kept on his desk, he looked at the crucifix and said to me: "There are 100, and with you, 101. Go, and you will be happy, for in the house of the Lord there is room for everyone."*

Sister Carmela took perpetual vows on 2 June 1958, at the Mother House in Albano Laziale, and returned to the community of Cardinale (CZ), where she remained until 1976. She subsequently returned to the Mother House in Albano Laziale for study and health care. Subsequently, she carried out her pastoral mission primarily in schools, family ministry, and the ministry of the sick: 1982 in S. Angelo (PG); 1983 in S. Martino (PG); 1992 in Cosenza (CS); 1995 in Avellino (AV); 1997 in Ricadi (VV); 2002 in Doria (CS); 2007 in Pannarano (BN). In 2014, she returned to the Mother House in Albano Laziale, where she carried out small services and received the attention she needed for her fragile health.

We thank the Sisters of the Mother House and the staff who, especially during this recent period of serious illness, have looked after Sr Camela with care and generosity, supporting her with their love and closeness.

Dearest Sr Carmela, we thank the Good Shepherd for your testimony of faithfulness to the gift of your vocation as a Pastorella, and we entrust you to the Father's Mercy. We ask you to intercede for the gift of Peace and faithfulness for each sister and for the young women in formation.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Bogotá D.C., 23 December 2025
Saint John of Kanty, Priest