



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



Today, 25 March 2024 at 02.30 am
in the community of Mother House – Albano Laziale, our sister

ANNITA, Sr MARIA ULDERICA CICCOMARTINO,

has parted this earthly life.

She was 91 years old and 59 years of religious life.

Today, as we thank the Lord for the gift of Sr Annita's vocation as a Pastorella, we join the psalmist in the prayer that has shaped Sr Annita's life in her fifty-nine years of pastoral ministry: *The Lord is my light and my salvation*; a life anchored in the following of the Good Shepherd and in the gratuitous gift of self.

Annita was born on 4 February 1933 in Cittaducale (RI) and was baptized on 19 March of the same year in her hometown parish dedicated to Santa Maria del Popolo. She entered the Congregation in Albano Laziale – Mother House on 3 September 1962 and the novitiate on 2 September 1963.

She made her first profession on 3 September 1964, taking the name of Sr Maria Ulderica. After her first profession she was sent to the community of Carbonara di Po (MN), where she remained for the entire time of her juniorate. She took her perpetual vows on 3 September 1969 in the Mother House, Albano Laziale and, in her request for admission to perpetual profession, she expressed herself as follows: *Confident in the help of Divine grace, I renew my resolutions to follow Jesus "Way, Truth, Life"; to live my consecration totally through the practice of perfect charity which unites us more intimately with God and the entire Mystical Body.* After her perpetual profession she was sent to the community of Vicenza - S. Agostino, where she dedicated herself to kindergarten teaching and also served as superior of the community. After this period, she experienced a time of renewal and updating in Albano Laziale – Casa Madre.

Sr Annita was a sister of deep faith, generous, simple, communicative, welcoming, hardworking, altruistic, a lover of pastoral care with little ones and eager to participate, when possible, in all the events of the Pauline Family. She often recalled having known the Primo Maestro and how much she was able to receive from him as "Father" of the Pauline Family. She always believed in the value of community life and, at prayer, she often asked for the gift of inner serenity for herself and for the sisters and to be able to love, to always love!

She exercised her pastoral ministry mainly in kindergarten teaching, served as superior in some communities and, although immersed in schools, she always collaborated in the parishes where she was present: 1983 Corbola (RO); 1986 Vicenza – S. Agostino; 1996 sabbatical in Negrar; 1997 Tor San Lorenzo (RM); 1998 Novoledo (VI); 2000 various services in the Generalate; 2004 Castel D'Azzano (VR); 2010 Verona – various services in the ICN-MZ Provincial House and in 2016, due to health reasons she returned to Albano Laziale – Mother House. From 2021, her health situation became increasingly precarious.

The sisters testify how Sr Annita remembered the places and the people she met in the apostolate with great fondness, and she left beautiful signs as she used her gifts. Even during her illness, her thoughts often went to children, young people and poor people who needed help. She was always concerned about others and eager to be a peace-maker, not to cause concern or make people suffer. Her expressions of gratitude accompanied her both during the time of her apostolate and during her illness. She was a positive person.

At the end of her apostolic presence, the parish community of Castel d'Azzano expressed itself as follows: *We are sorry that you have to leave us for another assignment because you had now become one of our parish family. At the same time, we are grateful for having had you among us as a sister, as a friend, as an example of testimony to the faith. For us, you were there for the sick and the elderly, you were there for the catechism, you were there for the lectors, and the liturgical group, you were there for the children of the choir, you were there... you were there for everyone: silently, almost on tiptoe so as not to disturb and always with a smiling face. You have always demonstrated humility, patience, charity, obedience.*

We thank the sisters and the staff who offered with generosity, patience and love the care that Sr Annita needed to live her personal Easter serenely. Our gratitude also to the family members for the love and closeness shown her during her illness.

To you, dear Sr Annita, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we ask you to intercede for all humanity the gift of reconciliation and Peace in this prolonged time of global conflict.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General*

Rome, 25 March 2024
Monday of Holy Week