



*Faith in the resurrection
opens us to fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death.*

(RoL 24)



Today, 16 March 2023 at 11.45 am (Australian time),
in the community of Bundoora – Australia, our sister

Sr ESTELITA MAÑABO

concluded her earthly life.

She was 76 years old and 47 years of Religious Life.

As we entrust our sister to the Father's Mercy, we feel particularly close to today's words of the entrance antiphon: *In whatever trial, call upon me, I will hear you, and I will be your Lord forever.* Words lived by Sr. Estelita and fulfilled in her life after a difficult period of illness.

Estelita, the eldest of seven children, was born in Carmona-Cavite (Philippines) on September 30, 1946 and was baptized in the Parish of St. Joseph also in Carmona-Cavite. She entered the Congregation on May 14, 1972 in Imus-Cavite, in the groups of the first Filipino Pastorelle, and in the novitiate on December 31, 1974. She made her first profession, in the hands of Mother Celina Orsini, on January 1, 1976 in Quezon City - New Manila (Philippines). After her profession she remained at Imus to devote herself to teaching religion in our school "Jesus Good Shepherd School".

Sr. Estelita is described, right from her initial formation, as a generous and reflective person, intuitive, constant, capable of loving and suffering gratuitously. She is a humble and joyful sister. She tries to grasp and welcome God's will in daily events. Many persons remember her *as a person of prayer, very kind and respectful, an encouraging presence, always smiling and welcoming. She always had a word of appreciation for everyone.*

In 1977, Sr. Estelita accepted the missionary call to go to Australia, entering the community of Thomastown where she was responsible for coordinating catechesis, training pastoral workers and liturgical animation. She made her final vows in Thornbury (Australia) on 4 July 1982 and in her request for admission to her perpetual profession he expresses herself as follows: *I feel that God is calling me to live my vocation to love him and he is continually calling me to discover him in daily events, through the spiritual life and in common life in the communities of the Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd. This call finds expression in the apostolate.*

Sr. Estelita returned to the Philippines in 1986, to Imus-Cavite, to take over the direction of the elementary school, a task she carried out with great generosity and dedication. From 1986 to 1990 she also carried out the service of Regional Councilor with care. She was in Rome - in the Community of Via Traversari, in 1991, for a time of formation, an experience which will allow her to draw on the charismatic sources of the Pauline Family, being part of the first study group for a two-year period on the Charism organized by the Pastorelle internally. She shared her devotion to the Primo Maestro with the young generations of Pastorelle and in the Pauline Family with much passion.

After this period of study, she returned to the Philippines to resume pastoral activity in the following communities: 1993 in Quezon City-New Manila; 1994 in Parañaque where, in addition to being community superior, she was nominated Provincial Councilor for the four-year period 1994-1998; 1998 in San Fernando - La Union both to devote herself mainly to spiritual accompaniment and to continue the service of Provincial Councilor for a second four years from 1998 to 2002; 1999 in Imus-Cavite devoting herself to social and charitable pastoral care; 2000 she returned to Parañaque to take care of the formation of pastoral workers; 2001 in Quezon City-New Manila and was engaged in vocation ministry.

In 2002 she left again for Australia to engage in the training of pastoral workers. Community in which she will remain to this day loving and serving the Australian Church in the following communities: 2002 in Payneham; 2011 in Thomastown; 2015 in Bundoora; 2017 in Thomastown. In 2020 she returned to Payneham where she will remain until December 2022, when due to cancer which has already proved to be in an advanced stage, she is transferred to Bundoora to be able to carry out all the necessary medical treatments.

We thank the sisters of the two Australian communities who lived with Sr. Estelita this time tried by the disease, giving her great support and loving care, thus allowing our sister to experience the fatigue of trial in serenity and abandonment to Jesus Good Shepherd.

Dearest Sr. Estelita, we thank the Good Shepherd for the gift that you have been for us and for all who have encountered you, being able to benefit from your humble and joyful presence as testified by the parish priest of Payneham, Fr. Michael Romeo, who writes: *Sr. Estelita was much loved by all. Her humble and prayerful nature, wise counsel and her joyful smile will be missed by us all.* We entrust to your intercession the gift of Peace and vocations for the Church.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 16 March 2023
Sts. Hilary and Tatian