



*Faith in the Resurrection
opens us to fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death.
(RoL 24)*



Today, 04 June 2022 at 9.00am
in the community of Mogliano Veneto (TV), our sister
BERTILLA, Sr MARISTELLA BAGGIO
has ended her earthly life.
She was 83 years of age and 56 years of religious life.

While the Pauline Family, on the eve of the solemnity of Pentecost, celebrated the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Apostles, the Father called to himself our sister Maristella who lived her life as a Pastorella, docile to the action of the Spirit who always led her to serve the Good Shepherd in the most needy.

Bertilla was born on 27 March 1939 in Cassola (VI) and was baptized on 1 April 1939 in her hometown. She entered the Congregation on 17 December 1962 in Albano Laziale-Casa Madre and on 02 September 1964 in the novitiate. Also in Albano - Casa Madre she made her first profession on 03 September 1965, taking the name of Maristella. Having made her first profession, she was sent to Lamosano (BL) as a kindergarten teacher.

Right from her initial formation, Sr Maristella is described, as a sister who was open, sincere, very sensitive, mature, practical, sociable, deep and consistent in her prayer life. She was docile, helpful and capable of recognizing her own limitations.

On 03 September 1970, she made her perpetual profession in Albano Laziale and in her request for admission to perpetual profession she wrote: *"I have truly found my family In the Congregation, I have been helped in everything; and I love it and I would do anything for it."*

In 1973, she continued her pastoral ministry in Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD), while in 1976 she went to Albano Laziale-Casa Madre to devote herself to study. In 1978 she was in Sant 'Angelo di Celle (PG); from 1983 she was in Soave Mantovano (MN) and in 1986 in Bonavigo (VR) to continue her ministry in the field of education.

In 1987 she lived a sabbatical year at Tor San Lorenzo (RM), and the following year, remaining in the same place, she made herself available for service in the kitchen. She resumed kindergarten teaching in 1989 in Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI) and from 1996 in Verona-Borgo Milano. She was superior in the communities of Soave Mantovano (MN), Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI) and Verona-Borgo Milano.

In 2006, she made herself available to serve the needs of the community of Negrar di Valpolicella (VR). From 2007 she was in Mantova and from 2013 in Mogliano Veneto dedicating herself to family

visitation, paying particular attention to the elderly. And in this latter community, on 4 June, without any particular warning, she felt unwell. Sr Maristella died on the way to emergency by ambulance.

The sisters testify how Sr Maristella was a Pastorella who drew her daily strength for community and apostolic life from the Eucharistic Jesus, the center of her life and tireless drive for the mission. She took special care of the sick, preferring those who had particular difficulties. She lived her vocation as a Pastorella with joy and was attentive to the journey of the Congregation.

Another sister said: I did not know Sr Bertilla until 1978, when for study reasons we met and gradually began to get to know each other. But our true friendship came later, during a course of spiritual exercises in which we shared our life and how to journey towards God, giving all of ourselves. [...] We understood the true need to live our religious life by giving ourselves generously to God, meditating on his Word and fulfilling his will.

While we entrust Sr Maristella to the Father's mercy, we ask for her intercession so that the gifts of the Holy Spirit descend abundantly on our Pauline brothers gathered for the XI General Chapter, and on the Preparatory Commission of our 10th General Chapter gathered in these days in Rome.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 04 June 2022
Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Apostles