



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



Today, 21 November 2024 at 9.35 pm (local time)  
at Virvi Ramos Hospital, Caxias do Sul – Brazil, our sister

**Emilia, Sr M. Elisa Comerlato**

has parted this earthly life.

She was 95 years old and 67 years of religious life.

On the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we hear the words of the psalmist: *Let the faithful rejoice in glory*, as a hymn to Sr Elisa's fidelity to the gift of her vocation of Pastorella. A gift that she welcomed and lived prayerfully and in the total gift of herself to the Good Shepherd in the pastoral mission.

Emilia was born on 7 August 1929 in Terceira Léguas/RS and was baptized on 25 August of the same year in the parish of her hometown dedicated to St Peter. She entered the Congregation in Caxias do Sul - Terceira Léguas on 6 October 1952 and the novitiate on 5 January 1956. She made her first profession on 6 January 1957, taking the name of Sr Maria Elisa. After her first profession, she was sent to the community of Bento Gonçalves/RS. On 6 January 1962, she made her perpetual profession in the community of Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo/RS.

Sr Elisa met Don Alberione before entering the Congregation and even before the Pastorelle arrived in Terceira Léguas, on the occasion of a visit of Don Alberione in Brazil. She had been to confession to him and her entire life was marked by the proposal he made to her then. Sr Elisa is described as a sister who was faithful to prayer and her testimony of praying was convincing and contagious; she loved her vocation as a precious gift of God's love and was concerned with the response and faithfulness of each one to the charism received. She was simple, dedicated, occupied her time in an organized manner, and always paid attention to the most important thing to do. In her pastoral life, she never neglected the care of the poor and the sick, whom she visited with love, bringing Holy Communion and also some donations to those in need.

After her perpetual profession, she returned to the community of Bento Gonçalves where she remained until 1967. From 1967 to 1971 she was in Cazuza Ferreira, in the pastoral mission, especially in the various chapels scattered within the parish territory. In 1971 she was

transferred to the community of Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo where she carried out her ministry mainly in the School, without neglecting the pastoral collaboration in various areas. In 2010 she returned to Caxias do Sul - Terceira Léguas where she carried out various services until her health allowed it. In 2021, due to poor health, she was transferred to the "Casa Betania" community, still in Caxias do Sul, where she received the loving care and attention of the sisters and the staff dedicated to assisting. We thank the sisters who accompanied Sr Elisa with solicitude and love in her time of illness, and also the health workers who always looked after her with care.

The sisters remember Sr Elisa as a sister who knew how to be strong and incisive when she noticed that something did not correspond to God's plan and was not afraid to make fraternal correction. When in doubt, she asked; she had solid convictions that she defended firmly, when necessary, and held strong principles.

*As well as a life dedicated to God, most of her time was given to little and fragile ones, to children. She loved working as a teacher in the day nurseries and kindergartens, in the various places she lived. On weekends, she carried out the service of extraordinary minister of Communion to the sick, praying with the sick and their families. Through her passion for the education of young children, she made an impact on the lives of many families. She never forgot the children and was able to remember, even many years later, the different characteristics of each of her students.*

*In community life, Sr Elisa was always close to her sisters, very generous, and never neglected services to the community. She made herself available to serve the community, she was joyful and liked to interact with people she knew; she always read the newspaper and shared the news. She was constant in maintaining a lifestyle that was simple, wise, obedient, and prayerful. She fulfilled the commitments of religious life according to the Rule of Life of the Pastorelle.*

Dearest Sr Elisa, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank you for the gift that you have been for us and for the many generations that you have formed through the gift of your life as a faithful Pastorella. We ask you to intercede for the gift of Peace in this historical moment of great global conflicts.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Cali (Colombia), 21 November 2024  
*Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*