



*Faith in the Resurrection
opens us to fraternal communion
Beyond the threshold of death.*

(RoL 24)



Today, 18 January 2023, at 11.15 pm,
at the hospital of Negrar di Valpolicella (VR),
our sister ended her earthly life

SANTINA, Sr. M. ROSANGELA CERAMI

She was 86 years old and 61 years of religious life.

In entrusting our sister Rosangela to the Father's mercy, we hear the antiphon to the Gospel that we heard in today's liturgy echoing: *Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and cured every disease among the people.* A Word that seems to have been written especially for her who until the end offered herself completely as a Pastorella in the proclamation of Jesus and in the witness of the mercy of the Good Shepherd who cares for everyone, especially for those who are sick, needy and rejected.

Sr. Rosangela, the first of four children of Gaetano and Leonarda, was born in Castellana Sicula (PA) on February 17, 1936 and was baptized on February 23 of the same year in the Parish of San Francesco di Paola, in her native town.

She entered the Congregation on 3 January 1958 in the community of Alcamo (TP) and had her religious habit on 12 April 1959 in the Mother House in Albano Laziale (RM). She entered the novitiate on September 2, 1960, made her first profession on September 3, 1961 and her perpetual profession on September 3, 1966, always in Albano Laziale.

After her first profession she returned to Alcamo (TP) where she devoted herself mainly to parish catechesis and in 1963 she was transferred to the Community of Todi (PG) where she mainly taught in kindergarten. Subsequently she lived her pastoral ministry in the following communities: from 1969 to 1980 in Castel D'Azzano (VR) where she also served as superior from 1973. In 1980 she was transferred to Corbola (RO); in 1983 she lived a sabbatical year in Tor S. Lorenzo (RM); from 1984-1994 she spent a decade in Florence-Novoli, where she dedicated herself in a special way to pastoral care in the field of charity (street pastoral care) with attention to the elderly and the sick and, since 1990 she was a superior of the community; in 1994 she was transferred again to Corbola as superior dedicating herself above all to catechesis.

After many years of apostolic activity in Italy, she responded with a generous and joyful heart to the missionary call: to open a community in Mozambique and from September to December 1999, she and the other sisters who would be with her in the mission, spent time in Lisbon (Portugal) to study the Portuguese language and then left for Pemba in 2000 to start our presence in Africa.

Sr. Rosangela is described as a sister of prayer, generous, joyful, humble and charitable towards all, who loves relationships and is also able to leave, to renounce what is most dear to her, to embrace the will of God which she feels always mediated by concrete people and situations. She loves every person and reality to which she is sent, without distinction and with great missionary zeal. Bishop Luiz Lisboa (Bishop of Pemba at the time of Sr. Rosangela) describes her as a sister who "*had a heart bigger than her body*".

Some sisters who lived with her the opening of our presence in Pemba testify how Sr. Rosangela was a *friend to all: poor and rich. In fact, she regularly visited prisoners, knew them by name, prayed with them and dedicated herself to the poor who passed through our house, and used to say, "poor people, they are in need". And then she was a friend of the rich merchants of the city, Indians and Pakistanis almost all of Muslim religion; she knew each family and closely accompanied the most difficult cases together with Father Luiz Lisboa, later bishop of Pemba.*

The first Mozambican sisters defined Sr. Rosangela as follows: *a true mother, who transmitted a joyful and fulfilled consecrated life; she knew how to relate to people without making distinctions, but loving everyone, even those of other religions. She always told us: "we must pray, be united to God, to know how to love the poor; life belongs to Jesus the Good Shepherd and we are little instruments".*

In 2013 she returned to Italy for health reasons and remained until today, spending herself generously in the care of sick sisters. A mission that she lived with passion and great dedication until this evening, when, while she was preparing the distribution of medicines to her sick sisters, she was suddenly struck by a fulminant aneurysm.

In thanking the Good Shepherd, dear Sr. Rosangela, for your life and mission we make our own the words addressed to you by Bishop Luiz: *rest in peace missionary of smile, work, service. Pray to God for us!*

In a special way we ask you to intercede for the gift of Peace and abundant graces on the journey towards the 10th General Chapter.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 18 January 2023
S. Prisca