



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



Today, 23 April 2021 at 11.00pm (local time)
at the Norte de Bello Clinic – Antioquia (Colombia), our sister
Sr LUZ ELMIRA GONZÁLEZ PEÑA
returned to the Father's House.
She was 71 years old and 49 years of Religious Life.

Let us pray with the psalmist the prayer that Sr Luz Elmira transformed into life: *I will fulfill my vows to the Lord, before all his people*, throughout her almost fifty years of generous, joyful and fruitful pastoral ministry because founded on the love of Jesus Good Shepherd.

Luz Elmira was born on 14 March 1950 in Tinjacá (Colombia), into a family of great faith. She was the fourth of eleven children, six brothers and four sisters. She was baptized on 14 May in her hometown, in the parish dedicated to St Blaise.

She entered the Congregation on 07 December 1968 in Bogotá and two years later in the novitiate. She made her first profession on 08 December 1971 in Bogotá and her perpetual profession on 06 January 1979. In her letter requesting admission to perpetual profession, she wrote: *I feel happy, very happy to be a Pastorella. I ask the Lord and the divine Shepherdess to grant me that every day I may love the Congregation and each sister more and more, to walk together and proclaim the Gospel so that it may reach every heart with the goodness of the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep.* Sr Luz Elmira belonged to the group of the first vocations who experienced the beginnings of the foundation, generously contributing to the development of the Congregation first in Colombia, then in Venezuela and more recently in Mexico.

The sisters who accompanied her formative journey and those who shared her pastoral ministry with her, describe her as follows: *She was always joyful, capable of defusing even moments of strong tension. Remembered above all for her great faith, her courage and love for the Good Shepherd and for every person she met, without any distinction. She was a welcoming, loving, tender, balanced, objective sister, capable of sacrificing for the good of the community and the apostolate. She had great pastoral zeal imbued with creativity and unreserved gift of self. She was a person of prayer and capable of sharing her faith journey with simplicity and depth. Parish priests thought well of her. She loved youth and vocation ministry. In her heart, she lived her belonging to the parish as Blessed Alberione taught: Our parish is the world.*

With a missionary heart, she lived in the three Nations that made up the Circumscription to which she belonged: in 1971, after her first profession she was sent to Cúcuta, to the Cathedral of St Joseph, where the Pastorelle arrived in 1964 for the foundation in Colombia. In 1972, she returned to Bogotá

for study reasons. In 1974, she left for Araure, where our pastoral presence in Venezuela had begun two years earlier. Here she mainly dedicated herself to parish catechesis. In 1977, she returned to Bogotá to study. In 1978, she returned to Cúcuta, and in the Cathedral, she took care of the formation of pastoral workers; in 1981, still in Cúcuta, she was transferred to the parish of St Anthony to dedicate herself again to the formation of pastoral workers. In 1982, she was nominated for a three-year period (20 August 1982 - 20 August 1985), as Councilor of the Circumscription, then defined as Colombo-Venezuelan. She returned to Bogotá in 1983 to continue her studies in pedagogy.

In 1986, she returned to Venezuela to Aparición de Ospino, to be responsible for catechetics and from 1989, she was superior of the community. In 1991, she was sent to the capital of Venezuela, to the apostolic community of St Joseph (Caracas) still engaged in the formation of pastoral workers, as well as carrying out the role of superior of the community. From 01 September to 15 December 1993, she participated in the Study Course on the Charism organized by the Congregation in Rome. She was again nominated Councilor of the Colombo-Venezuelan Circumscription for a four-year period (01 January 1994 - 31 December 1997), remaining in Venezuela, where she also fulfilled the role of formator of Pastorelle of several generations. In 1998, she was transferred to the formative community of Caracas - Santa Monica continuing her mission in formation.

In 2002, she returned to Colombia in the community of Medellín where she also carried out the service of superior of the community. However, after a year she left for a new Nation and this time for Mexico, to Netzahualcóyotl – Cristo Rey, where she was superior of the community. In January 2004, while still in Mexico, she was appointed mistress of the Junior-professed of the Colombia-Venezuela-Mexico Circumscription and in 2005 she was appointed Councilor of the said Circumscription for the four-year period 2005-2009.

In 2008, she returned to Medellín (Colombia) and in 2009, was nominated mistress of the aspirants and postulants of the Circumscription. In 2011, she returned to Mexico to Netzahualcóyotl - Guadalupana as superior of the community. In 2014, she returned to the main house of the Circumscription in SantaFé de Bogotá, remaining available for various services. In 2015, she was transferred to Medellín – Formation House, in charge of the formation of pastoral workers and from 2019, she was part of the formative-apostolic community of Cúcuta. During this time, she began to experience some health issues and was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm that required surgery. However, immediately after the surgery, there were complications of various kinds that lead to her death. Sr Luz Elmira lived her time of illness with a spirit of faith and abandonment, gifts that were characteristic of her life.

We thank all the sisters who have shown loving care towards Sr Luz Elmira, especially the communities of Cúcuta and Medellín. We thank her sister, Sr Virginia, consecrated person of the Presentation, who gave her support and affection in the days of her trial.

On the eve of our Congregational feast, we bless the Good Shepherd for the gift of Sr Luz Elmira's life and mission. We entrust her to the Father's mercy and we ask her to intercede good and holy vocations for the Church, for the Pauline Family and in a particular for our Congregation.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rom, 23 April 2021
St George