



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



Today, 25 September 2022 at 11.00pm
In the community of Verona (VR), our sister

BRUNA, Sr BIANCA MARIA BALLERINI

has parted this earthly life.

She was 93 years old and 71 years of religious life.

While in today's liturgy resound the words of the psalmist: *the Lord remains faithful forever*, our sister Bianca Maria concluded her earthly pilgrimage and entrusted herself with serenity to the faithful God whom she loved and witnessed as a Pastorella.

Bruna, fourth of seven children, was born on 01 July 1929 in Capoliveri (LI) and baptized in her native parish, dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 11 July 1929.

She entered the Congregation on 15 June 1945 in Genzano (RM) and belongs to the group of Pastorelle of the first ten years of the life of our Institute. After five years, on 14 July 1950, she began her novitiate in San Pietro alle Acque - Massa Martana (PG). On 15 July 1951 she made her first profession in Genzano, in the presence of Blessed James Alberione, taking the name of Sr Bianca Maria and the perpetual profession on 10 July 1956 in Albano Laziale - Casa Madre.

Immediately after her profession, Sr Bianca Maria, left for Budrione (MO) and, both in this community and in that of Polpet (BL), from 1955 she fulfilled the role of superior of the community. In 1957 she was in Albano Laziale-Casa Madre to study and from 1958 until 1967 she carried out the delicate vocation apostolate with generosity and conviction.

Sr Bianca Maria was a sister of great prayer and love for the Congregation. She is described as a joyful, creative, decisive, enterprising, generous, communicative person, attentive to the needs of others and of great sensitivity in the pastoral care of vocations. She always followed the life and journey of the Congregation and was particularly happy when receiving news about our mission and vocations. She used to share her joys, hopes and hardships with

the sisters who carried out the service as superior general; a sisterly communication that showed affection, closeness and prayer for the entire Congregation.

On the journey of preparation for our 9th General Chapter she shared her experience of "pastoral motherhood" with these words: *I have experienced the joy and fatigue of pastoral motherhood several times in difficult and delicate situations. When I found myself comforting and giving hope, advising, praying in family situations. [...] When for nine years I have helped many young people to understand the mission of our Congregation of Pastorelle Sisters. [...] When I helped a deacon with prayer and advice; because the spiritual father - of the boy - asked me if I could help him. The spiritual father told me: You sisters have two hearts, yours and Mary's.*

Sr Bianca Maria then continued her pastoral ministry as a kindergarten teacher from 1967 in Villimpenta (MN) and from 1976 in Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD). From 1979 she was in Bettola di Peschiera Borromeo (MI) engaged in youth ministry. In 1982 she returned to Albano Laziale-Casa Madre for a sabbatical year.

She continued her apostolate in the area of catechesis in the following parishes: from 1983 in Cervia (RA); from 1984 in Lusina (RO) and from 1985 in Verona - Borgo Milano. She was mainly engaged in the pastoral care of families in Manzinello di Manzano (UD) in 1997, the following year she was in Ferrara and then in Albiano (TN). From 2003 she was in Mantova-Frassino where she carried out the service of superior of the community and she dedicated herself to visiting families, accompanying the sick and taking care of the liturgy.

In 2019 she was transferred to Verona, then the provincial house, to be taken care of her health. This was a time of trial for Sr Bianca Maria as she wished to remain in the apostolate. The loving care of the sisters and home medical assistance made her time of illness more peaceful, during which Sr. Bianca Maria gradually entrusted herself to the will of the Father. We thank those who have dedicated themselves to her with generosity, patience and professionalism.

Dear Sr Bianca Maria, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank you for all that you have given us, we ask you to intercede abundant graces for the sisters in charge of vocational ministry and for all of us the gift of joyful fidelity.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Caxias do Sul, 25 September 2022
26 Sunday in Ordinary Time