



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



Today, 13 February 2022 at 3.15pm (local time),  
at Pompeia Hospital - Caxias do Sul/RS (Brazil), our sister

**GEMMA, Sr CLAUDIA PERINI**

returned to the Father's House.

She was 85 years old and 64 years of Religious Life.

On this sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Father has called to himself our sister, Sr Claudia, a sister who lived in the spirit of the Beatitudes. With gratitude, we can say with the words of the prophet Jeremiah: blessed are you, Sr Claudia, who have trusted in Lord, and as a tree planted along a stream, you never stopped producing fruit.

Gemma was born on 16 November 1936 in Loreto-Farroupilha in Caxias do Sul (Brazil) and baptized on 10 December of the same year in the parish of "N.S. Da Conceição" in the Diocese of Caxias do Sul/RS.

She entered the Congregation on 02 June 1954 in Terceira Léguas and received her initial formation in Bento Gonçalves/RS. She entered the novitiate on 01 February 1957 in Caxias do Sul-RS Leopoldo and made her first profession on 02 February 1958, taking the name of Sr Claudia. She made her perpetual profession on 02 February 1963.

After her first profession, Sr. Claudia, returned to the community of Bento Gonçalves where she remained until 1962, carrying out various duties. From 1962 to 1963, she was engaged in pastoral mission in Fagundes Varela/RS.

In 1964, she left as a missionary for Bárcena-Buenos Aires (Argentina), to start the foundation in Argentina, together with other Brazilian sisters and among them Sr Beatriz Festa and Sr Alba Bellaçon. In 1984, the community of Buenos Aires-La Tablada was opened and Sr Claudia was entrusted with the service of superior, which she carried out with her gifts as mother and sister both in the community and with the people of God. In 1989, she was appointed Councilor for the Argentine-Chilean Circumscription for the four-year period 1990-1993.

Sr Beatriz and Sr Alba have described Sr Claudia as a sister who prayed much, had a practical intelligence, a good heart, capable of sacrifice and tireless in work. She always put her gifts at the service of others. She was very helpful and delicate in her treatment of others. She was an angel of peace, communion and unity both in community and in the pastoral mission. In

her mission, she visited families and the sick; she reached out to the poor with humility, simplicity, industriousness, ability to listen, respect and understanding, as a daughter of Don Alberione.

In June 2018, she returned to Brazil for a time of sabbatical and, after a short return to Argentina, in 2019 she returned to Brazil in the "Betania" community in Caxias do Sul where she received the necessary care for her declining health. We thank all the sisters and the health personnel who, with love and dedication, have closely accompanied Sr Claudia in her time of illness.

The sisters from Argentina are grateful to Sr Claudia for the gift of her life and mission. *They will carry her in their hearts as a simple, joyful, generous, helpful sister, faithful to prayer that she never neglected and with a great mother's heart. She was always attentive to the needs of the sisters and gave herself to make them feel good. She was sensitive and compassionate in the face of the sufferings of humanity and held these above all in the prayer of the Rosary, transmitting a great love for Our Lady. Many times, in the silence of her heart, she offered to the Lord her tiredness or her health issues so as not to make her situation weigh on the sisters.*

*She enjoyed nature, especially flowers and the vegetable garden which, among the many other services in the house, she cared for with love, and then sharing the fruits. Even in the kitchen, she was dedicated and creative and she patiently and attentively taught the young in formation. Being in her company made us feel good, loved, protected and welcomed. Her testimony as a woman and as a Pastorella will remain forever in our hearts. She was a living witness of the pastoral charism in Argentina, as a woman and as a religious. She left us a testimony of joy and fraternity and now we feel the pain of her death. Thank you Sr Claudia for your presence and gratuitous gift of yourself in our midst and in the pastoral mission. All of us sisters in Argentina have loved you; you have been a mother and sister to us!*

In particular, we express our closeness to Sr Beatriz and Sr Alba who, having lived long years of mission in Argentina with Sr Claudia, now feel this loss particularly strongly. May Sr Claudia intercede for them the consolation and peace of faith, and for the whole Congregation abundant gifts and graces to bear witness to the spirit of the Beatitudes and produce fruits of communion and generous giving in every age.

Dearest Sr Claudia, in entrusting you to the Father's Mercy, we express our gratitude to you for your testimony as a missionary Pastorella with an undivided heart marked by the twofold love for the Good Shepherd and for his People. You have been an "angel of peace" and we ask you to intercede for peace in our hearts, for peace throughout the world and especially for Ukraine at this time.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes  
Superior General

Rome, 13 February 2022  
VI Sunday in Ordinary Time