



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



Today, 19 October 2026, at 4.50 am (local time)
in the community of Mother House-Albano Laziale, our sister
IGNAZIA, Sr M. SAVERIA DEMONTIS
has parted this earthly life.
She was 92 years old and 66 of religious life.

While the words of the Psalmist—*"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all the peoples"* still resonate during this 100th World Mission Sunday, the Father called Sr Saveria to Himself. Throughout her life, she faithfully and generously bore witness to the wonders of the Good Shepherd, including during her years of mission in Latin America.

Ignazia was born in Barumini (Oristano) on 16 May 1934 and was baptised a few days later, on 23 May 1934, at the Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Barumini. She entered the Congregation at the Mother House in Albano Laziale on 1 May 1957, and began her novitiate on 2 September 1959. She made her first profession, taking the name Sr Maria Saveria, on 3 September 1960, and her perpetual profession on 3 September 1965.

In her request for admission to perpetual profession, she wrote: *"Recognising it to be God's will that I consecrate myself entirely to Him, it is my deep desire to respond to this sublime grace; therefore, I ask to be admitted to perpetual profession. I shall strive to fulfil the significant duties of my beautiful vocation as a 'Pastorella', so that I may also contribute to the mission and goals of the Congregation."*

From the time of her initial formation, Sr Saveria proved to be a woman of faith, generous, self-giving, joyful, and sociable, with a profound sense of belonging to both the Congregation and the Pauline Family.

Her pastoral ministry was interwoven with various periods of service, during which she acted as a community superior, a delegate councillor, and a formator for postulants. From the time of her first profession, she carried out her ministry in various settings and locations: in 1960, in Capoliveri (Livorno); in 1965, in Monsole di Cona (Venice); in 1970, in Capoliveri (Livorno); in 1980, in Albano Laziale—at the Mother House—for her studies; in 1982, in Massa Martana (Perugia); and in 1983, in Pescara, where she remained until she departed for the mission in Latin America.

Sr Saveria left for Peru on 9 November 1986, beginning her missionary experience there first in Santa (1986) and later in Lima (from 1989). Subsequently, she served as a missionary in Chile: in Santiago (1996) and in Perquenco (2006), before returning to Santiago in 2013.

After thirty years of generous and fruitful missionary work in Latin America, Sr Saveria requested to return to Italy to continue her apostolate. Welcomed with joy by the Central-Southern Italy Province, she joined the community in Castellammare – Annunziatella (Naples) in 2016, and in 2017, the community at the Mother House in Albano Laziale.

In 2018, having expressed a deep desire and joy at the prospect of returning to Latin America, she went back to Santiago, Chile, where she continued her missionary presence with great generosity. In 2023, she asked to return to Italy permanently, thanking the Lord for thirty-five years of grace spent in the mission field. She was welcomed with joy by the Italy-Albania-Mozambique Province, where she continued her pastoral ministry in Modena. In 2024, she joined the community at the Mother House in Albano Laziale, remaining a serene, joyful, and generous presence.

In the first half of 2026, her health became precarious, and she was diagnosed with advanced-stage cancer. She received the necessary medical care while continuing to share her profound faith, serenity, and spirit of surrender with those who visited her and those who cared for her. We extend our gratitude to the Sisters and the external staff who looked after Sr Saveria with love and professional skill; throughout this time, she remained a living witness of gratitude and trusting abandonment to the Good Shepherd.

The Sisters recall: "We first met her forty years ago, when she arrived in Peru to establish our Congregation in these lands." She instilled in all of us a profound and tireless missionary and pastoral spirit, a great love for Christ the Shepherd, for the Congregation, for the mission, and for the value of community life. Her life expressed and testified to a deep vocation to foster communion, promote fraternity, and welcome others, opening the doors of her heart and the community.

A sister of profound prayer, a lover of the Word of God, and tireless in seeking the Father's will, she was always ready to reach out to the "lost sheep" and to the poorest and most vulnerable—whom she visited and accompanied without ever growing weary. The goodness of her heart, her gentleness, tenderness, and compassion defined her, making the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, visible to all.

How much of her life she gave to the mission! She spared neither time nor energy, even when her health was fragile; nothing could stop her when it came to formation, evangelisation, or proclaiming the Gospel. She would head out—even in the pouring rain—to lead catechesis, if only for a single person.

Her contribution to the formation of new generations of "Pastorelle" was immense—above all through the witness of her life, her prayers, and her self-offering.

Dearest Sr Saveria, we entrust you to the Father's mercy and thank you for your witness as a good and faithful "Pastorella" who lived with a missionary heart until the very end. We ask you to intercede for the gift of peace and for holy vocations throughout the entire Church.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 19 October 2026

Memorial of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo