



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



On 06 February 2024 at 6.00 pm (local time)
in the Casa São José – São Paulo – Brazil, our sister
GERTRUDES, sr M. SALETE DUZ
has parted this earthly life.
She was 80 years old and 61 years of religious life.

My soul yearns and longs for the courts of the Lord. These words of the psalmist describe the longing for God that inhabited Sister Gertrudes in her earthly pilgrimage. A longing fulfilled with her birth in Heaven yesterday, with serenity and faith.

Gertrudes was born on 05 February 1944 in Fagundes Varela (RS) Brazil. She was baptized on 15 December 1944, also in Fagundes Varela. She entered the Congregation on 06 January 1959 in Caxias do Sul. She entered the Novitiate on 01 February 1962 also in Caxias do Sul and made her First Profession on 02 February 1963 taking the name of Sr M. Salete.

After her first profession, she carried out her pastoral ministry in the following communities: in 1963 in Porto Alegre - Partenon (RS) and 1967 in Jabaquara - São Paulo in the School Divina Pastora. She made her Perpetual Profession in Caxias do Sul on 02 February 1968 and continued her pastoral ministry mainly in catechesis, liturgy, and health care in the following communities: 1968 in Jardim (SP); 1971 in Rafard (SP) and 1974 in Jardim; in 1979 she also spent a period of study in Lapa (SP). Then he continued his full-time mission in 1982 in São Paulo in the São José Operário Parish; in 1985 she returned to Lapa where she carried out her service in vocational promotion. In 1988 she moved to the Santos Apostolos Community (SP); in 1989 to Lapa; 1993 to Ceilandia (DF) where she dedicated herself to vocation ministry.

In 1997 she was appointed Provincial Bursar and she once again resided in the Provincial House in Alto da Lapa. In 2001, having completed her service as Bursar, she took over the financial administration of the School Divina Pastora in Jabaquara. In 2004 she integrated the Jardim community and starting from 2007 she held various roles in the "Casa São José" (SP), dedicating herself zealously to the care of the sick sisters; in 2009 she returned to the

Community of Jardim and in 2010 she went to the mission in Redenção do Araguaia (PA); In 2018 she returned to the "Casa São José" and in 2020 she once again went to the mission in Jataí (GO). Both in Redenção and Jataí she also worked with dedication in the diocesan ecclesiastical Tribunals.

In 2022, due to some health problems, she returned to São Paulo to the Provincial House and in November 2023 it became necessary to transfer her to the "Casa São José" to receive the care she needed for her delicate health condition.

Sr Gertrudes has been described as a sister who was fully dedicated to God and God's people and served with the heart of the Good Shepherd. She was simple, generous, kind, responsible, and a woman of prayer. She was kind in community life and performed various services, even as a driver. She loved the liturgy and was courageous in the mission, with a particular passion for the healthcare sector, which led her to make several requests to attend a Nursing Assistant Course, which was granted to her, allowing her technical training to be put to good use in the loving nursing care of the sick sisters, and through implementation in Pastoral Health Care in various parishes.

A Bishop has expressed himself like this: *"I pray that she may look to God who she searched all her life...and that God may reveal himself with that infinite Love in which she believed without ever seeing it, but only because the witnesses of CHRIST announced it to her. In the end, she can say, without a doubt: "I have finished my race, I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith, all that remains now is to receive the reward".*

The sisters also remember her: *When I was a postulant in the 'Jardim of the Pastorelle', sr Gertrudes was there. A very beautiful, delicate presence. Subsequently, her entire life was given to the mission elsewhere, without borders. Now, with her blue eyes, she contemplates the face of her Beloved. And He certainly embraces her with great tenderness.*

We thank the sisters and healthcare workers who cared for our sister during her illness with love and dedication.

As we entrust sr Gertrudes to the Mercy of the Father, we ask for her intercession for the gift of vocations for us and the Church that she loved and served with gratuitous love.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Biella, 07 February 2024
Blessed Pius IX, Pope