



*"Faith in the resurrection  
opens us to fraternal communion,  
beyond the threshold of death"*  
(RdV 24)



Today, 3 March 2019, at 5.50am (local time)  
in São Paulo (Brazil), our sister  
**SR CONCEIÇÃO DAS DORES NICOMEDES**  
returned to the Father's House.

She was 48 years old and 22 years of Religious Life.

In this eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, while St. Paul in the second reading reminded us that: *"Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"*, the Father called to himself our sister Conceição who has lived a long period of illness without ever losing the hope of healing in order to continue her pastoral mission.

Sr Conceição, the last of twelve children, was born on 22 March 1970 in Eldorado Paulista - São Paulo (Brazil) and baptized on 21 June 1970 in the parish of Our Lady of Guia also in Eldorado. She entered the Congregation on 11 March 1992 in Eldorado and the novitiate on 31 January 1995 in São Paulo - Jardim das Pastorinhas where she made her first profession on 26 January 1997. As a Junior Professed, she both studied and was in the apostolate, involved mainly in youth ministry in two communities: 1997 in Vitória/ES; 2001 in Piracicaba where she made her perpetual profession on 3 September 2005.

After finishing her studies in psychology, she coordinated the "Amiguinhos de Jesus Bom Pastor" project in the community of Jardim, where she welcomed the poor children of surrounding areas and offered them help through the after school activity. During this time, she also dedicated herself especially to helping the families of the same children. She devoted herself to the animation of youth ministry: in 2006 in São Paulo - Jardim and in 2009 in São Paulo - Alto da Lapa and then back in São Paulo - Jardim in 2011. From 2011 to 2015, she was a Provincial councillor and from 2013 to 2015, despite her poor health, she carried out duties as a formator with loyalty and dedication.

Sr Conceição is described as a joyful sister and a lover of the pastoral mission. She showed particular sensitivity and care towards struggling families and needy children; she was attentive to all forms of social poverty and worked hard to defend life. She loved music, played the guitar and sang in liturgical celebrations and meetings. A young woman in formation remembered her with these words: *A*

*mother, sister, friend and formator. A determined woman, strong, courageous, rich in faith and in her will to live.*

Since 2013, Sr Conceição had been battling an aggressive cancer, but she never gave up. She cultivated hope in her heart, despite the various trials that her family suffered at the very time that she was fighting against this increasingly inexorable disease.

In September 2018, she said, *I am asking for healing, through the intercession of Blessed Alberione, and once I am healed, I will be available to return to the mission anywhere in the world where my presence might be needed.* Even in moments of most intense suffering, she showed a strong attachment to life and a tireless enthusiasm for the pastoral mission.

We thank our sister for her testimony of love for life and for her pastoral vocation. We thank the sisters who with affection and generosity provided all the necessary treatment to assist Sr Conceição and in a special way for supporting her in her journey of faith and abandonment to the will of God.

While we entrust you to our merciful Father, dearest Sr Conceição, we entrust to your intercession the fruitfulness of the mission of the whole Pauline Family, for a vocational thrust and that in the spirit of the Pact, we may live and give Jesus Master Shepherd in serving the suffering humanity of our time.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes  
Superior General

Albano Laziale (RM), 3 March 2019