



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



Today, 30 July 2021 at 1.10pm (local time)
at Santa Catarina Hospital - São Paulo (Brazil), our sister

Sr RITA SILVA DA COSTA

returned to the Father’s House.

She was 76 years old and 50 years of Religious Life.

Today, as we celebrate the memorial of St Peter Chrysologus, and in the Collect, we ask *that we may constantly ponder in our hearts the mysteries of salvation and faithfully express them in what we do*; we give thanks for the gift of the life of Sr Rita, as a Pastorella. In her ministry, she has faithfully expressed the mysteries of salvation in what she did favouring the smallest and the vulnerable.

Rita was born in Bebedouro / SP on 21 July 1945, and baptized on 26 August 1945 in the parish of São João Batista of Bebedouro and confirmed in the same parish on 28 July 1946.

She entered the Congregation on 16 January 1966, in the community of Jabaquara - *São Paulo*/ SP and in 1969, she moved to Centenário do Sul / PR.

She entered the novitiate on 01 February 1970 in Caxias do Sul, where she also made her first profession on 24 January 1971. She made her perpetual profession on January 01, 1980 in the chapel of the *Istituto Divina Pastora*, in the district of Jabaquara in *São Paulo*.

She carried out the pastoral ministry in various areas and she distinguished herself for her great generosity and love for the most needy. She also fulfilled the service of superior in various communities with simplicity and care. She knew how to involve people at all levels for the spiritual growth and pastoral care of those entrusted to her. The sisters testify to this as follows: *She worked with the indigenous people of the Rural Institute, in the M’Boi Mirim Parish, in São Paulo. For eight years, she was the coordinator of the Pastoral Care ‘da Criança’ (of children) in the Belém Region, Archdiocese of São Paulo, involving many people in the defense of the lives of children. She also carried out the same pastoral activity in the Lapa Region, also in the Archdiocese of São Paulo. She had the courage to seek resources from politicians and other organizations, as long as she could meet the needs of the most vulnerable; especially those who were assisted by the pastoral care ‘da Criança’.*

After her first profession, she began her pastoral ministry in Jabaquara, São Paulo and subsequently in the following locations: 1972-1974 in M’Boi Mirim (Rural Institute), São Paulo; 1974- 1978 in Terceira Léguas, Caxias do Sul / RS; 1979 in the Tiago Alberione community, Porto Alegre / RS; 1980 in Rio Maria / PA; 1981 - 1982 in Jardim Gilda Maria, São

Paulo; 1983 - 1986 in the Provincial House, São Paulo; 1987 - 1991 - Ceilândia / DF; 1992 - 1996 at the Divina Pastora Institute, Jabaquara, São Paulo; 1997 -1999 in the Provincial House, São Paulo / SP; 2000 - 2008 - Vila Califórnia, São Paulo / SP; 2008 (2nd semester) - 2012 in the Santos Apóstolos community (Vieira Portuense), São Paulo; 2013- 2018 in the Santos Apóstolos Community (Buritis), São Paulo.

From 2019, Sr Rita was in Casa São José - *São Paulo*, a community dedicated to the care of sick sisters. In this community, she gave her loving and generous service to each sister without sparing herself. She recently underwent surgery that took an unexpected course and resulted in her death. We thank the sisters who have lovingly worked to assist Sr Rita both at home and in the hospital.

From the time of her initial formation, Sr Rita is described as *a person with a great religious spirit, with a joyful, docile and loyal character. She was very generous and loved everyone. She did not mind what service was entrusted to her; she always performed it with enthusiasm and dedication. These qualities characterized her pastoral spirit. She knew how to listen and was confident in the apostolic work that the Good Shepherd accomplished in her and through her.* The sisters continue to testify: *She was very generous, available, and enthusiastic and a lover of pastoral care. She felt very responsible for the pastoral commitments she undertook. The people loved her. She was very active and dynamic. She lived to serve. She helped greatly people in need, she brought comfort and hope to them. She had a big and welcoming heart. Most significant was the way she enjoyed celebrating life. She has always been a friend, a true friend, understanding and joyful with everyone. She spared no effort in providing for the needs of the community. She was extremely generous.*

We thank the Father for the gift of Sr Rita life, for her pastoral zeal in following Jesus Good Shepherd, sustained by the "Yes" of the Mother of the Good Shepherd, docile to the action of the Holy Spirit. Dear Sr Rita, as we entrust you to the Father's mercy, we ask for your intercession for the preparation and celebration of the Interchapter that it may be *event of communion - participation - mission.*

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 30 July 2021
Saint Peter Chrysologus