



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



Today, 07 February 2020, at 01.10am (local time)  
at the hospital of Caxias do Sul/RS (Brazil), our sister

**SR YOLANDA ANNA THEREZA PIVA**

returned to the Father’s House.

She was 92 years old and 63 years of Religious Life

While today's liturgy, in the acclamation of the Gospel, proclaimed: *Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance*, the Father called to himself our sister Yolanda, who accepted the "Word made flesh", responding to the call of the Good Shepherd, and living her 63 years of fruitful offering as a Pastorella with perseverance and joy.

Yolanda, who was the fourth of six children, was born on 05 February 1928 in Caxias do Sul / RS and was baptized on 03 June 1928 in Caxias do Sul. She entered the Congregation in Terceira Léguas - Caxias do Sul on 14 March 1954 and the novitiate on 05 January 1956. She made her first profession in Caxias do Sul on 06 January 1957 and her perpetual profession on 06 January 1962. Sr Yolanda was part of the first novitiate of the Congregation in Brazil, as described in the internal Bulletin: *"On 06 January 1957, ten sisters made their first vows, the first novices in Brazil"*.

Sr Yolanda had the opportunity to attend various courses to better prepare and serve the Congregation and the people of God: pastoral theology, biblical and charismatic studies, courses on administration and social welfare. In fact, she carried out the service of accounting with generosity, competence and precision.

Various testimonies speak of the gratuitousness and joy of our sister, who put to good use every gift of nature, grace and culture that she received. She is described as an attentive and honest person, softly spoken, never saying a bad word about anyone and respectful of

relationships with the sisters. She was a prayerful person, loved silence and given to serving God and our brothers and sisters in daily life. Furthermore, Sr Yolanda showed herself to be delicate, bearing witness to the value of obedience in Consecrated Life, irrespective of the age of the superior of the community.

Sr Yolanda performed the pastoral apostolate in various places in Brazil, involved above all in pastoral coordination, catechesis and liturgical animation, family visitation, parish secretarial work and social welfare: Piratuba / RS (1957-1958); Murialdo - Porto Alegre / RS (1958 - 1960); Fagundes Varela/RS (1960 - 1963), Iepê / SP (1963 - 1965); Jabaquara / SP (1965-1966); Getúlio Vargas/RS (1966 - 1974). She also served as superior in the communities of: Fagundes Varela/RS, Iepê / SP, Getúlio Vargas/RS. Subsequently, Sr Yolanda became available both at school level and assisting in the area of finances: Jabaquara / SP (1974 - 1980); São Leopoldo - Caxias do Sul (1982 -1997); Caxias / RS do Sul, community of Jesus Bom Pastor (1997 - 2000); Caxias do Sul, community of Jesus Mestre Pastor (2001); Caxias do Sul, Most Holy Trindade community (2002 - 2014). In all these places she is remembered for her love for lay people and for the Pauline Cooperators AGBP, and for her silent and prayerful presence during meetings. In 2015 she was moved to the Betânia community of Caxias do Sul in order to receive adequate care for her health.

Let us bless the Father for the gift of the life of our sister who lived the mystery of the Cross with serenity and abandonment to the will of God, even in her illness. We thank the sisters who with motherly affection supported Sr Yolanda, offering her all the necessary care. We also thank the members of her family who have always accompanied her especially in the days she spent in the hospital. We entrust the journey of the Congregation to the intercession of our sister and, in particular, the preparation of the 8th Interchapter that it be according to the heart of the Good Shepherd.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes

Superior General

Rome, 07 February 2020