



Dearest Sisters,

On the day when the Church commemorates Our Lady of Lourdes, at 7 a.m., at the St. Joseph Psychiatric Clinic in Lisbon, Portugal, our sister was called to live in intimacy with her Master to the full:

FERNANDES PEDROSA sr TERESA DE JESUS
born in Goios Barcelos (Braga, Portugal) on December 26, 1942

Sr. Teresa was a sister with fire in her heart, eager to communicate to all the richness of faith and the joy of belonging to the Lord. She felt drawn especially toward the Portuguese-speaking people of Africa and at various times offered herself to serve in the Pauline mission in Mozambique and Angola. She was not able to fulfill the “dream” of the mission *ad gentes* but we can certainly say that her life, in all its expressions, bore witness to the apostolic ardor of the apostle Paul and to his desire to make himself all things to all people in order to bring everyone to Christ.


She entered the Congregation in the house in Porto on November 15, 1964. In 1967 she arrived in Rome for the novitiate, which she concluded, with her first profession, on June 30, 1968. She spent her years of juniorate in Funchal, on the island of Madeira and in Lisbon, experiencing the joy of apostolic dedication, especially through biblical missions and gospel weeks. She then returned to Rome to prepare for perpetual vows, which she made on June 30, 1974, and thus entered into a period that rooted her deeply in the values of the Pauline vocation.

With the enthusiasm that characterized her and through her love for study and the cultural preparation she was acquiring in the theological and pastoral fields, she made a valuable contribution to various areas of the apostolate, especially in biblical animation and in the coordination of the bookcenters in Lisbon, Porto, and Funchal. Her spontaneous openness to relationships and the strong convictions that motivated her, made her an effective vocationist at the delegation level. Several were the young women who, attracted by her missionary ardor, chose to give themselves to the Lord in the Pauline vocation. Creative in mission, she was for a number of years, in charge of editing radio programs in the diocese of Funchal. In this community she also served as superior, and for two terms, the sisters' trust was manifested in entrusting her with the role of councilor for formation and secretary of the delegation. Truly her every gift was placed at the service of communicating the Gospel: with her beautiful voice, she led the liturgical singing in the parish and during Bible missions. She was a witty and sometimes humorous sister; she had the art of telling jokes to make her sisters smile. She took pride in her country and suffered when there was little effort to speak the Portuguese language correctly.

Over the last ten years or so, her health condition had progressively declined, especially due to the onset of Alzheimer's disease, which had taken away her autonomy and forced her, in this last period, to be admitted into a specialized facility. Indeed, she lived the Gospel experience to the fullest: ... *When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.*” (Jn. 21:18).

As we thank Sr. Teresa for what she has given us, we entrust her to the merciful arms of the Father so that he may hold her in his eternal embrace.

With affection.



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, February 11, 2025