



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



Today, 8 July, at 4.20 am (local time)
in Casa São José – São Paulo -Brazil, our sister
MARIA CECÍLIA, Sr M. DOMITILA DOS SANTOS
has parted this earthly life.
She was 81 years old and 61 years of religious life.

May the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. The words of the psalmist describe the joyful heart of Sister Cecilia, who, as a faithful Pastorella, always sought the face of the Good Shepherd and today was called by the Father to contemplate Him forever.

Maria Cecilia was born in Angatuba, SP, Brazil, on 28 March 1945, and was baptized on 17 April of the same year in the Divino Spirito Santo Parish in Angatuba. She entered the Congregation on 2 February 1957, in the community of Jabaquara, SP. She entered the novitiate on 1 February 1964, in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo, and made her first profession on 2 February 1965, in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo, taking the name Sister Maria Domitila. On 1 January 1971, in São Paulo - Jardim Gilda Maria, she made her perpetual profession.

Sister Cecilia is described as someone who loved her vocation and the Congregation. She was a simple, generous, courageous, always available, and joyful sister. She was deeply concerned for the poor and a lover of nature, which she cared for with dedication. She was tireless in her mission and in any responsibility entrusted to her, always accomplishing everything with a beautiful smile.

Sister Cecilia's pastoral mission was primarily focused on family ministry, the training of pastoral workers, and as bursar of the "Divina Pastora" elementary school, in vocation ministry, and in the health care sector: 1965 São Paulo - Jabaquara "IDP"; 1967 Centenario do Sul; 1968 São Paulo - Jardim Gilda Maria; 1972 Santana do Araguaia; 1974 Rafard; 1979 São Paulo - Jabaquara "IDP"; 1981 São Paulo - Jardim; 1982 S. Paolo - Jabaquara "IDP"; 1988 S. Paolo - Alto da Lapa; 1989 Brasília; 1993 Belo Horizonte - Ribeirão das Neves; 1994 S. Paolo - Alto da Lapa; 1997 S. Paolo – Jardim; 1999 Brasília; 2000 S. Paolo – Jardim; 2002 S. Paolo - Alto da Lapa; 2003 Generalate – Rome; 2006 S. Paolo - Alto da Lapa; 2009 S. Paolo - Vila California; 2011 S. Paolo - Casa S. José; 2015 S. Paolo – Jardim; 2017 Eldorado; 2019 S. Paolo

- Alto da Lapa and from 2023 in S. Paolo - Casa São José, where she received the necessary care for her illness.

We thank the sisters and external staff who cared for Sister Cecilia with tenderness and generosity, and in turn, appreciated her smile and gratitude.

The sisters testify: Sister Cecilia was always a person of great generosity. Her availability was characteristic. She was always ready for any situation, even the most difficult. When asked for a favour, she responded promptly with a smile, never complaining.

I remember Sister Cecilia for the generosity of her heart. A meek person, low on theory, but very practical in her work.

Wherever she was assigned, Sister Cecilia left her mark. She cared for those most in need. She visited everyone in the community where she lived, bringing comfort and help. She found work for many people and provided assistance to those in need. She was always joyful and courageous in facing challenges. She loved the Congregation and was happy to be a Pastorella.

For the sisters of the Generalate and for those who visited us, Sister Cecilia was the smiling and welcoming face of the Good Shepherd. Her testimony of faith, generosity, and love for the Congregation edified and supported us in our service of welcome as the Generalate Community.

Dearest Sister Cecilia, we thank you for the gift you have been to us, and as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we ask you to intercede for good and holy vocations for the Church.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Casa Divino Maestro-Ariccia, 8 July 2026
Saints Aquila and Priscilla, Couple