



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



Today, 16 June 2025, at 06.15 am (local time),  
in the community of São José - São Paulo – (Brazil), our sister  
**ANTÔNIA MATHILDE, Sr MARGARETE LOPES**  
has parted this earthly life.  
She was 89 years old and 64 years of religious life.

*"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wonders."* The psalm of today's liturgy celebrates the joyful and faithful life of Sr Margarete and the wonders that the Good Shepherd accomplished in her and through her in the pastoral ministry that she lived with a mother's heart. Antônia Mathilde was born on 23 February 1936 in San Carlos (São Paulo – Brazil) and was baptized on 22 March of the same year in the Cathedral of San Carlos (São Paulo – Brazil).

Antônia was born into a deeply religious family that gave the Congregation four Pastorelle Sisters: Sr Terezinha Lopes (deceased in 1995), Sr Letícia Lopes, Sr Ana Lopes, and a permanent deacon to the Church (Rubens).

She entered the Congregation on 11 December 1957 in Jabaquara (São Paulo – Brazil) and the novitiate on 1 February 1960 in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo (Brazil). She made her first profession on 2 February 1961 in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo (Brazil), taking the name of Sr Margarete; and her perpetual profession on 2 February 1966, again in Caxias do Sul - S. Leopoldo (Brazil).

Sr Margarete is described as a very good sister, communicative, always very joyful, and easy to live with in the community. A woman of prayer, very dedicated to the tasks that were entrusted to her both in the pastoral ministry and in the administration of the "Padre Alberione" Province, where she was the bursar for many years. She was also a provincial councillor and lived every service in a responsible way, testifying to a joyful, simple, and generously donated consecrated life.

She lived her pastoral ministry with great generosity and dedication in various local Churches: 1961 Centenario do Sul/PR; 1970 Regente Feijó/SP; 1971 S. Paolo – Jardim; 1973 Brasília/DF; 1983 S. Paolo Provincial Headquarters; 1997 Brasília/DF; 1998 S. Paolo – Jardim; 1999 Assis/SP; 2011 S. Paolo – Casa S. José; 2016 S. Paolo – Jardim; and in 2020 in S. Paolo - Casa S. José where she received the necessary care for her health.

Sr Margarete has lived serenely, bringing joy to the sick sisters of Casa São José to this day. She passed away unexpectedly, but serenely, and was always cared for with love and dedication by the sisters and external staff. We thank the sisters of the community and the Province for all that they offered to Sr Margarete, which she received with gratitude.

*The sisters testify: "Sr Margarete was very sociable, joyful, fraternal, with a keen sense of humour, she was always known for her joy; with an easy smile she loved to tell jokes, making everyone around her laugh; she also loved doing crosswords and word chasers, a habit that kept her mind awake, until this morning, when she passed away peacefully to meet the Father; she always lived her vocation intensely with joy, simplicity and dedication; a woman of prayer, perhaps it would not be an exaggeration to say that she had a strong "spirituality of good humour".*

To you, dearest Sr Margarete, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank you for the gift that you have been for us and your testimony of joyful living and your faithfulness to the gift received. We ask you to intercede for the gift of Peace for humanity at this time when major conflicts are increasing worldwide.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Saints Quiricus and Julitta, martyrs  
São Paulo – Brazil, 16 June 2025