

Sister Maria Noêmia of the Holy Face

Angelina Lopez de Souza

"Through Him, with Him and in Him"

- Born on April 5, 1933 in Rio de Janeiro
- Entered the Postulancy on January 8, 1955 in São Paulo
- Became a Novice on January 25, 1956 in São Paulo
- First Vows on January 27, 1958 in São Paulo
- Perpetual Vows on February 10, 1964 in San Miguel/Argentina
- Died on January 4, 2021 in Puerto Iguazú/ Argentina

Sister Noémia died of Covid-19 in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, where she had been living for some years. Our Province, which is currently called the "South Atlantic Province", is the result of a restructuring movement that brought us the novelty of joining two Provinces, Brazil and Argentina.

To find out more about the life and witness left to us by Sr. Noêmia, we spoke to the Sisters of the Community where Sr. Noêmia last lived.

Community of Puerto Iguazú writes about Sr. Noêmia:

"She left a year ago, without warning, in silence, and never came back... but she's there. That's what characterizes her, her silent presence. Her presence went unnoticed and unremarked. She attended the diocesan meetings of religious, the children's ministry meetings, also organized by the diocese, which were held quite far away and for which she didn't hesitate to travel three hours, the meetings of the small BEC group; she attended all the Community meetings that had to do with organizing the week or other matters or simply to share."

She visited the families without being hindered by either torrential rain or the blazing sun. For some families, her presence was particularly meaningful. One of her best friends told us a few days ago: "I'm very

lonely (her husband works, her children are no longer with her) but Noêmia is with me, I feel close to her, she has helped me to come out of a very deep depression, which I suffered during this particularly difficult time of crisis".

Noêmia had the soul of a missionary and a special sense of 'presence' wherever she was needed. I'd say she was an apostle of the little things. I often saw her, during siesta time, washing a child's laundry before handing it over to a family. She gave dimension to little things.

She was happy in Argentina, happy in Iguazú and very happy among the poor. She loved her country, followed all the news and looked forward to January to return to Brazil to share with her family and the Sisters with whom she had been a companion in formation and on her journey for so many years. She didn't look back on the past with nostalgia, but she loved it. She knew how to rejoice and suffer in silence...

Sister Regina, from Brazil, recounts the following memories: "In 1958, the Novitiate of our Province was still in São Paulo, which was also the Provincial House, and the school as it is today. In January of that year, I entered the Postulancy and Noêmia had just made her First Vows. She stayed in the Novitiate Community for some time before being sent to her first mission Community.

Small in stature but big in responsibility, Noêmia was in charge of cleaning and had Maria da Apparecida, still a novice, as her assistant. Today, both are already with God in the eternal Kingdom. But at the time, it was amusing to see them walking briskly through the corridors, both carrying their tools, Apparecida walking respectfully behind her 'supervisor'... It was especially amusing because of the contrast between their respective heights: Noêmia was very small, while Apparecida was one of the tallest of all the Sisters in São Paulo at the time.

The image of Noêmia that came to mind when I first met her was that of a 'little ant': small, dynamic and hard-working...".

This is confirmed by the following statement by Sr. Naíla: "I remember Sr. Noêmia rushing to the supermarket to do her shopping".

Sr. Regina continues: "I didn't live in Community with Noêmia until many years later when, in 1982, we were sent with two other Sisters to found a

Community in the Archdiocese of Vitória, which would be our first Community in the Espírito Santo region. We didn't live together long, as Noêmia found it difficult to adapt to pastoral work in a diocese organized on the basis of BECs, where our 'leaders' were often lay people, and we, their assistants. But the three things that first struck me about Noêmia remained: she was small, dynamic and hard-working.

But it was in Rio, in our house at CENAM, where I arrived in 1999, that I lived with her for the longest time. Noêmia was already part of the Community when I arrived. She was as dynamic as ever, and I discovered other qualities in her: availability, love of the poor, a great ability to make friends. She told me one day: 'I try to see the face of God in people's faces'.

Always ready to help, Noêmia was a good friend of some of our employees. After her transfer from Rio, whenever she came back to see her sisters and nieces, she made it a point of visiting some of our former employees.

This year she was also present through a large photo in the chapel on Christmas Eve, giving us a sign of hope.

Noêmia left her mark as a Sister who served God "quietly": silent, reserved and helpful.

Sister Luzia also has some memories of Sister Noêmia:

"She sowed peace through her joy and simplicity. She seemed to live the words of Saint Marie Eugénie: 'My gaze is fixed on Jesus Christ and on the extension of His Kingdom'. The little time I spent with her was well worth it. With Noêmia, it was important to live the same love for Jesus and Mary in all the people we served.

Sr. Natalina adds:

"I lived with her for two months in Auteuil, and I could see that Noêmia was a person of prayer. She loved the Congregation, which showed in her attendance at Province meetings. She was discreet, but observant and humble. She was also simple enough to ask for help when she needed it. Noêmia was poor and consistent with her consecration. She was also attentive regarding the use of the common fund. She faced life's challenges with faith. She loved the poor and gave her life to them.

Another characteristic of Sister Noêmia was that she loved to play cards, especially canasta. Whenever there was a meeting of the Province, she never missed the "card table".

Her whole life was dedicated to Jesus and generously given to the poor. She truly lived her word: "Per Ipsum, cum Ipso et in Ipso".

Sr. Regina Cavalcanti and Sr. Maria del Carmen Parúas

(Original in Portuguese)

Sister Joseph Oiso of the Blessed Sacrament

Clementina Baltazari Oiso

"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

- Born on January 19, 1939 in Kirua Vunjo, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania
- Entered the Postulancy on November 18, 1961 in Richmond, England
- Became a Novice on January 13, 1963 in Kensington, England
- First Vows on April 10, 1964 in Kensington, England
- Mystery: The Blessed Sacrament
- Perpetual Vows: June 8, 1969 in Mandaka- Tanzania
- Jubilees: Silver (1989) Golden (2014) all celebrated in Moshi, Tanzania
- Died on January 11, 2021 in Katesh, Tanzania

Sr. Joseph Francis Oiso (Clementina Baltazari Oiso) was born on January 19, 1939 in Kirua Vunjo, Moshi, Tanzania. She was the second child of Baltazari Ndefuno and Elizabeth Ndeshiwi. She had her primary school education at Yam and later, the Middle School at Iwa, Moshi District.

She joined the Religious of the Assumption at Mandaka, the first foundation, then went to England in 1961 to continue her religious formation.

She made her First Vows on April 10, 1964 in Kensington, England and took the Blessed Sacrament as mystery. She returned to Tanzania to continue with her studies at Mandaka Teachers Training College in 1965. She made her Perpetual Vows on June 8, 1969 at Mandaka Parish, Moshi Tanzania, with “The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want” engraved in her ring,

Sr. Joseph Francis was a good primary school teacher, a profession she loved and did wholeheartedly. It was her great joy to form the little ones on Christian morals. She taught in the following schools; Mandaka Demonstration Primary School, Kereita in Kenya, Mwandu and Saint Marie Eugenie Primary where she taught for a long time till her very last days. She lived in the following Communities in Tanzania: Mandaka Convent, Maili Sita, Iguguno and Singa Chini. In Kenya she was in Kereita, the first foundation, Kawangware and Karen (Lang’ata).

Sr. Joseph got medical treatment for her blood pressure, a condition that never stopped her from teaching and forming the children.

On January 9, 2021, the Sisters of her Community of Iguguno, celebrated her birthday while she remained in bed. The same night, her condition changed and she was rushed to a nearby hospital. On 01/11/2021, at Katesh Parish, on the way to Moshi for further medical treatment, Sr. Joseph Francis Oiso joined her Creator.

Sr. Joseph Francis will be remembered for her patience, gentleness, humility, truthfulness, faithfulness in her religious vocation, attentiveness and respect towards all. She loved children and her joy was to be among them till the end. She loved the Blessed Virgin Mary and encountered Jesus through her.

May Sr. Joseph Francis Oiso be happy with the One whom she loved and served as a Religious of the Assumption.

(Original in English)

Sister Sonia Teresa of the Mother of Sorrows

Teresa Aviles Gallo

"Thanks be to God, alleluia".

- Born on March 9, 1929 in León de Nicaragua
- Entered the Postulancy on September 24, 1947 in Bordeaux
- Became a Novice on April 18, 1948 in Bordeaux
- First Vows on May 24, 1949 in Forges
- Perpetual Vows on June 24, 1952 in Managua
- Died on January 12, 2021 in La Palmera

Sonia died on January 12, 2021, aged 91, after 71 years of religious life. In the Province of Central America and Cuba, she was loved and known as Mother Sonia until the end of her life.

She stood out for her strength of character and great tenderness.

She knew how to say things clearly, directly, frankly and transparently. She was very humble and simple. Austere and poor, she lived with the bare necessities. She was content with that.

She could go without something if someone needed it. Responsible to the end.

She was a woman of prayer, of great charity and devotion to all, a friend.

She loved the liturgy and music. She spent a lot of time preparing it with the Sisters. She was a caring mother to the Sisters, especially to the most fragile, the simplest and the humblest. She was very fraternal and full of affection for the Sisters. She gave herself to the Community and always took on the heaviest tasks.

As she was very human, her attitude and words gave back to the people their dignity. She was very welcoming towards the Sisters and their families. She was very attentive to everyone.

Available for all the services of the Congregation, even if it cost her, at the end of her Provincialate, she humbly accepted the service of General Councilor. She animated the Province for 9 years. Her Provincialate was difficult. She was a prophet by her life and by allowing herself to be and to act. She allowed the people (the Province) to become prophetic. She defended with determination the Province's option for the poor, for the indigenous people; she supported the liberation projects of our peoples. She was daring. She set out overcoming all fears and obstacles. She supported all the processes of inculturation and language learning in Petén.

She was very close to others and sensitive to their pain. She was interested in all realities and sought ways to help others and meet their needs. She loved her students dearly, and her former students remember her with great affection as a woman who marked them by her depth, uprightness and affection.

She blessed God every time a transferred was called for. Always sure of her vocation and faithful to the end, she believed that what had to be done, had to be done to the end.

Detached from her family, she looked after her parents with devotion and tenderness. She was very realistic about the mystery of the Cross. She said with great conviction that the Cross had no flowers, no birdies, no ornaments.

She lived and died like Jesus crucified, without ever complaining. She always said she was fine, even though she was like a "crucified Christ".

During her illness and until her last breath, she lived in total abandonment.

We thank God for her life, her witness, her abandonment, Alleluia!

(Original in Spanish)

Sister Guisela of the Eucharist

Alcira Guisela Perdomo Cordón

"Love to the end."

- Born on March 29, 1969 in Guatemala City
- Entered the Postulancy on March 10, 1988 in Guatemala City
- Became a Novice on November 19, 1989 in Guatemala City
- First Vows on November 16, 1991 in Guatemala City
- Perpetual Vows on August 28, 1998 in León, Nicaragua
- Died on January 25, 2021 in Santa Ana, El Salvador

Here is the story of Sr. Guisela:

- Her vocation journey: in the Community of the College of Guatemala in 1987 where she stayed on for her studies in the Community of Tac Tic, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.
- Postulancy (1988-89): in the Community of Morazán, La Chacra, San Salvador and in the Community of Sayaxché, Petén, Guatemala.
- Novitiate (1989-1991): in the Community of La Maya, zone 18, Guatemala.
- Juniorate and formation courses (1992-2000): in the Community of Sayaxché, Petén, Guatemala; the Community of Nuñoa, Santiago de Chile, Chile; the Community of Léon, Nicaragua and the Community of La Maya, zone 18, Guatemala.
- From 2001 to 2013: she shared her missionary life with the natives of Petén and the Q'eqchi' Mayan culture, in the Communities of San Luis and Sayaxché, Petén (Guatemala).
- From 2014 to 2021: in the Community of the Postulancy, Los Planes, San Salvador and in the Santa Familia Community, Santa Ana.

Throughout history, there have been men and women who, out of total love for God, have left everything to love and serve Him. And when they arrived, the Kingdom unfolded. Guisela was one of those women, a Religious of the Assumption in our Province of Central America and Cuba. She entered the Congregation the year she graduated from the Colegio La Asunción in her native Guatemala. She was a deeply human woman, seduced by God and His tenderness, giving of herself totally, passionately, without measure.

Guisela loved the Congregation and the Church. She travelled and shared her passion for life in different ways, with different cultures, communities and peoples. She was a great missionary who was merciful, who listened and was close to others. She was rooted in the Mayan culture and always had a facility for inculturation. She learned the Q'eqchi' language to better communicate with the people she accompanied. She promoted the dignity of indigenous women and the human growth of young girls.

She had a great love for her family. In fraternal life, she built up the Community with her joy, her attentiveness, her availability and her spirit of service. When a Sister was ill, she was very close and affective, with great sensitivity. She was a woman of relationships and deep friendships.

Guisela had many gifts that she put at the service of the Kingdom. In her life, nothing was an obstacle; she overcame difficulties, especially when it came to defending the lives of the most vulnerable. An example of her human qualities is the following: one day, while travelling through an indigenous village, a mother died a few hours after giving birth. Guisela quickly sought shelter for the baby, looked for a mother to breastfeed it for several days, going back and forth to the village until the child had regained its strength. There are other stories to be told about her great humanity and compassion in helping the most vulnerable.

She gave herself entirely to any mission that was asked of her. During the years, she spent in San Luis, she looked after the Granja, a way of supporting the Centro Maya Asunción. She also devoted herself to training young Q'eqchi' girls and women. Her love for young people led her to go out and meet them and motivate them to commit themselves to the mission. At university, it was not unusual to find her listening to young people who were looking for her. She was passionate about music and

loved to share the gift of her voice and guitar playing at every moment of liturgy and prayer.

Guisela was a woman of faith, courage and great strength that helped her face her illness, which did not prevent her from remaining active in the responsibilities entrusted to her and completing her theological studies with honors at the UCA (Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas) in San Salvador. And although her desire to live was very strong, aware of her imminent departure after three years of struggle, she gave herself to God with open hands and had the lucidity and generosity to give her life once again, to say goodbye to all those she loved and to leave this world in complete serenity. At the age of 51, the Lord called her and took her into His merciful arms.

Guisela lived to the full what she expressed on the day of her Perpetual Vows in her total consecration to God on August 28, the feast of Saint Augustine, a saint she admired:

"Love to the end is the invitation that all of you are making to me through your gaze. Love to the end is the word that I want to have engraved like a tattoo on my heart. This word is an evocation, an invitation, a cry and a message. I want to witness this fire of love that seduces me, invades me and burns within me forever. Love to the end is the word that gathers up the cry of so many lives offered, given, persecuted, martyred, silenced for having fought and wanted to make life possible for the poorest, God's favorites...". (Alcira Guisela Perdomo, 1998, León, Nicaragua)

Santa Familia Community, Santa Ana, El Salvador, Central America

(Original in Spanish)

Sister Francine Feutrie

- Born on August 19, 1928 in Estaires, Nord, France
- Entered the Postulancy on May 1, 1953 with the Augustines du Précieux Sang, in Arras
- Became a Novice on October 22, 1953 in Arras
- First Vows on August 22, 1955 in Arras
- Perpetual Vows on August 28, 1959 in Arras
- Died on January 31, 2021 at the Hôpital St Joseph in Paris

Born in the Northern Department in a family of four girls, Francine experienced the harsh ordeal of the 1939-1945 war in Estaires that had been bombed. Very discreet, we know little about her childhood and youth. Each time, she confided that her father, hidden in the Church tower during the German invasion, saw his house and his business burn. She didn't like talking about these events that had marked her childhood.

To respond to the Lord's call, Francine entered the Augustines of the Precieux Sang in Arras in Pas de Calais on May 1, 1953. She made her Postulancy and her Novitiate there. When she took the habit, she received the name Sister Marie Brigitte.

Since the time of her First Vows on August 22, 1955 in Arras, seeing the financial skills she had acquired from her father, she was sent to various Communities in Corbehem in the Pas de Calais. The Community there provided nursing care, as well as a housekeeping school for the Béghin factory.

She lived for a time in Montreuil sur Mer, then in Malo les Bains where the Congregation had Communities.

For many years, she was the bursar of the big house in the rue Pasteur in Arras. Her arrival was signaled by the jingle of the huge bunch of keys she wore on her belt. This amused the novices, of which I was one.

With the opening of a Community at 19, rue Saint Maur, in the 11th District of Paris, in September 1964, Sr. Francine became a 'Parisian' and still a bursar! Among other things, she discovered the markets. The

Community was large and young, and food was needed to feed everyone! She saw many student Sisters in different sectors.

From city to city, the greater Lyon area would not frighten her and soon she would know many places. On Rue Bournes, the bursar's office gave her a view of the Fourvière basilica on the other hill, which delighted her; Francine had a great love for Mary manifested by her rosary often slipping through her fingers, particularly in the corridors.

Always discreet and active, Francine walked briskly to be of service to her Sisters, towards whom she was sensitive and attentive, always ready to respond to their needs.

In 1998, she was called back to Paris, but this time to the 14th District, rue de Plantes, to help the General Bursar. She spent long hours in her office, sometimes even on Sundays.

She lived in different Communities of the house: at "l'Accueil" and then at "Sainte Geneviève". The years went by and Sister Francine grew older. Despite her deafness and serious health problems, she never complained. It was at lunchtime that she informed the Ste. Geneviève Community that she would be admitted to hospital that very afternoon for an operation.

Straightforward and efficient, she didn't like to bother others. Always ready to help, she would often say when someone offered her something: "whatever suits you". She was happy to be teased about her little habits, her banana for dessert at midday, her knitting, her place in the chapel... Her love for "little delicacies" was a candy made in Madagascar, which inevitably made her say: "that's good". Her eyes and her smile spoke for itself. She loved a job well done, with things in their proper place, which sometimes created a few problems with the daily newspaper that was put away too quickly. But she never failed to read it and was open to the world.

A "woman of prayer, faithful to her Lord to the end", as was said at her funeral, Francine, after a very active life, spent long periods in the chapel or sitting by her desk praying the rosary and the Office, as well as when she was "on duty" at the information desk.

Although she lived in Notre Dame de Bon Secours, just across the road from the Community, the decision to move to the Maison Sainte Monique

was a difficult one for her. She was helped, however, by Sr. Anne Marie Pruvot, who was invited to take the same step.

On her arrival at the Ehpad, Francine said she was "amazed" by the size of her room, her beautiful wardrobe and the kindness of the staff. She was quick to tell the Sisters who came to visit her, "I feel fine here".

As her health became increasingly poor and her condition worsened, she was admitted to Saint Joseph Hospital, where she passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 31, 2021.

Her funeral was held on Wednesday, February 3, in the chapel of Notre Dame de Bon Secours, where for many years she had taken part in the Eucharist on Sundays and certain days of the week.

Now, in the fullness of time, she can sing with all her heart: "My soul glorifies the Lord".

Sister Marie-Françoise Bisiaux

(Original in French)

Sister Marie Laëtitia of the Presentation

Isabelle de Lambilly

"Do whatever he tells you".

- Born on June 11, 1933 in Paris
- Entered the Postulancy on October 7, 1954 at Val Notre Dame
- Became a Novice on June 11, 1955 at Val Notre Dame
- First Vows (commitment) on November 1, 1956 at Val Notre Dame
- Perpetual Vows on November 6, 1961 in Lübeck
- Died on February 4, 2021 in Issoudun

Along with Sister Marie-Laetitia, this is one of the vocations that came out of the Lübeck School. Like many of her generation, she was accompanied

by the Jesuit Jacques Goussaud. Her family lived near the Assumption, on avenue Bugeaud; a family that was affected during the Second World War by the absence of her father, who commanded a regiment of Spahis in Morocco, and by his death in action during the liberation of Rome, at Monticelli in May 1944. Always very discreet about her origins, when one of us had the opportunity to go to Rome she pointed out that in the Church of Saint Louis des Français there was a plaque in memory of her father, a Lieutenant-Colonel.

Marie-Laetitia! She had two big black colored eyes with a kindly look in them, and from time to time she would burst out laughing! She was an educator with a passion for children, with a predilection for those with difficulties. Let's take a look back at our memories together, focusing on two qualities that, according to the Sisters, sum her up: audacity and humility.

She never lacked daring throughout her life in the world of education, whether in Palaiseau, then Lamazou, Bordeaux or Forges, and her attentiveness to and respect for others was marked by great humility.

A former headmistress of the Palaiseau school, Sylvia GENIN, writes: "I remember how welcoming she was and how incredibly dynamic she was! She asked for contracts for the secondary school and fought to ensure that everything went as smoothly as possible. I'm grateful to her for trusting me and hiring me: she met me before the summer holidays on a Saturday morning in 1970 when I was still teaching in Great Britain. I'd been on a return flight... my suitcase had gone missing because of a strike... I'd hardly slept all night. Luckily, I'd travelled with an outfit suitable for a recruitment interview, because all my clothes were in the lost suitcase! the stress!... I explained all that to Sister Laetitia, but I was on time for the appointment. I told her about my current experience with young English girls and the support I'd given to young people with learning difficulties before I left for the UK. I think that was a decisive factor, because her concern for the most vulnerable and for children with disabilities proved to be extraordinary. The entire educational Community in Palaiseau owes her a great deal in this respect. She taught us to welcome differences, which was not the norm in schools in 1970. The children in the advanced classes, known today as CLIS, have truly enriched our humanity. I also remember her 'modernity'. Following in the footsteps of Father Faure, Sister Laetitia was a great fan

of the new teaching tools. From the start of the school year in September 1970, I had a tape recorder at my disposal for teaching English! I also remember her kind presence with families at the school gate in the morning, at lunchtime and in the evening".

It is important to reread together the letter sent to her at Easter 1983 by Father Max CLOUPET, Director of Catholic Education for the Gironde: "Sister, I am taking advantage of this day to write a few letters which do not require an urgent reply and to which I attach great importance... Thank you for having trusted me with your testimony concerning the reception of young people with Down's syndrome at the Lamazou school which you ran until recently. You have thus introduced me to a meditation that should enable me to make a useful contribution at the next APPEL National Congress, where I will be leading the forum on special education. Madame Rigale's contagious audacity has convinced me! This problem of dual disability - mental and physical - is of great concern to me and I haven't found a way to get the leaders of Catholic education in Gironde to think about it effectively. For the time being, I've concentrated on setting up training centers for the CAEI. The time has now come to move on to a second phase: your example has inspired me. I'm encouraged by your successful collaboration with the Orphelins d'Auteuil. In any case, I'm sure we'll get the advice we need from you to explore these issues further... and I'll be sure to call on you when the time comes, knowing that you have already excused me from disturbing you... Fortunately, we have the light of Easter to sustain us. Please accept, Sister, the expression of my respectful sentiments and the assurance of my fraternal prayers. M.C."

Sister Isabelle-Eugenie was a young final professed teacher in Bordeaux and remembers: "Sister Laetitia was Superior of the Community and head of the primary school; it was Daniel CASADEBAIG who ran the Lycée. Laetitia had an excellent relationship of friendship and trust with him. Her relationship with the teachers was also very good. There was a good atmosphere. What also stands out for me is that she always tried to value the others and each of us by adapting to our individual temperaments. She was very attentive to each person's needs and knew how to adapt the pace to suit them. Every service was rendered with the greatest humility. At the time, I was taking the CAPES exam, and she supported me through the tough times. On the day of the results, which I was waiting for with some

trepidation, she phoned me while I was at the Pastoral Council to tell me that I'd been accepted. At the same time, she had put a bottle of champagne in the fridge. So the next day, the Community and the Management Team opened the bottle with shared joy! I'd also like to add that Laetitia had a great sense of humor; she often laughed, even at her mistakes, and yet she had to overcome bouts of extreme fatigue. She was the one who gave the boarding school a new impetus, and she was also very concerned about the integration of children with disabilities."

Sister Geneviève recalls a long journey: "After 3 years in Bondy, I arrived in Palaiseau at the start of the holidays. Laetitia was Superior of the Community and headmistress of the school. The specificity of this school was to develop children's autonomy and responsibility in their work and academic progress. It was a Père Faure school, which many parents appreciated. But when it came to college, parents were sending their children elsewhere. Sister Laetitia wanted to obtain government contracts to develop the school and hire teachers, but she needed to enroll a sufficient number of pupils. I admired her audacity and confidence in launching the project, starting with the 6th and 5th year classes, and at Christmas we received the contract agreement. The following year we opened the 4th and 3rd years. We had prayed hard!

We were a small Community and often had to welcome novices or postulants for training. We had great confidence in Laetitia's discernment. One morning, as we got off the bus, a child was injured by a car. Laetitia immediately offered to look after Philippe while he convalesced, and the widowed mother would come to see him in the evening after work. Sister Yveline-Myriam, who was a postulant, took great care of Philippe. Laetitia was close to the parents, welcoming and open to all.

I met her again a few years later at Lamazou. She was still headmistress of the school, but the responsibilities had taken their toll and she was quite tired. She really appreciated the parish of Sainte Jeanne de Chantal and all the training that Father Lustiger was developing to help people grow in their faith. We remained Sisters and friends; she was a very courageous woman. The Congregation, the Province and the Community were truly her family. She loved them passionately, eager to hear new things and share her own.

It was with great emotion that we welcomed her to Issoudun. She was very disorientated and very quickly the staff at La Chaume suggested putting her in the Alzheimer's unit. She had retained her authority and knew what she wanted or didn't want. But our suffering was her stay in hospital at the heart of the COVID pandemic, where we were forbidden to see her. So many people have suffered, as we have, from not being able to help their loved ones and show them love. However, when Sister Jeanne went to be laid to rest, the funeral director strongly advised her not to stay, and when she expressed her regret, he added 'I'll say the Our Father on your behalf'. A care giver on the ward, to whom I spoke about Laetitia and reminded her how much her radiant face had helped Sister Agnès de Jésus in her last moments, replied 'I'm like that with everyone, and I was with Sister Laetitia'. It did us all a world of good, because so many people were unable to help their loved ones.

Here is what Sister Ghislaine would like to share with us about Laetitia's presence at Lamazou, a time of searching, a time of receiving our Rule of Life: "Marie-Laetitia and I arrived at Lamazou in August 1972. She had been appointed Superior of a very international Community with Vietnamese, Indian, American and French Junior Sisters. The Community was located on the grounds of the Lamazou school and in the parish of Sainte Jeanne de Chantal, at a time when Fathers Jean-Marie Lustiger and André Vingt-Trois had been appointed to the parish, which provided a real and important link with both them and the parish. What I remember most about M-Laetitia at that time was her open-mindedness and her ability to be part of a Community. I was very touched by her humility. The previous year we had received the Rule of Life *ad experimentum* and we were studying it together. Marie-Laetitia was very respectful and attentive to the Young Sisters who had just come out of the Novitiate where they had discovered this new Rule of Life. The limitations of her health meant that she spent long hours in bed and was not afraid to receive us in this way. Because of her proximity to Auteuil, Marie-Laetitia welcomed into the Community Sisters who were leaving the Congregation, which was not an easy experience either for her or for the Community. Despite these difficulties, her joy was contagious, and bursts of laughter could be heard everywhere. Marie-Laetitia lived up to her name.

At Orléans Sainte Marie, Laetitia was very involved in the bursar's office. She arrived from Saint Dizier and, in order to "serve" the Community, agreed to keep the Sisters' accounts, as Sister Bénédicte-Marie was too tired to continue. She paced the great corridors with zeal despite her great fatigue and back pains. The time came when she was diagnosed with a herniated disc that was difficult to operate on. With great courage and placing herself in the hands of the Father, she accepted the risky operation. In fact, the operation was a success, enabling her to return to work and to form a new person who had been recruited to take over from her. I was struck by her concern for every member of the staff, and in particular for those who were going through hardships. Her evangelical behavior was consistent with her life of faith. Very concerned about the regularity of services, she was always present in the chapel a few minutes before the hour and her respect for prayer times was a help to the spiritual life of the whole Community. However, her aging took its toll yearly but the restructuring of Sainte Marie helped her and she joyfully accepted to leave for La Guille.

As Sister Geneviève pointed out, Laetitia left us at the height of COVID 19, and the health restrictions were strict as far as funerals were concerned. In consultation with the Issoudun Community, since we were unable to celebrate at La Chaume or in a Church in Orléans, we opted to hold a liturgy of the Word in Saint Mark's cemetery, near the vault of the Community. We carried the Paschal candle and the lectionary to put the Word at the heart of the celebration... Our very small congregation, the Sisters from the two Communities, a delegation of the family from Paris, Sylvia Genin, the Le Nalio family (former director of Forges, Orléans and Lübeck), prayed for Laetitia's passage to full life in Christ. A beautiful Loire light bathed the cemetery of Saint Marc and made the cross of white roses placed on the coffin glow, a cross brought by Laetitia's brother. The Word was at the heart of the celebration, the Word proclaimed, the Word acclaimed in song, the Word extended in intercession. It was a very intense moment.

This was spontaneously extended with a snack shared in the Community, bringing together Sisters and family. Confined liturgies can, and do, rekindle a taste for baptismal life. Thank you, Laetitia and God.

Sister Monique Roulleau

(Original in French)

Sister Béatrice Marie of the Heart of Jesus

Marie Thérèse Hazard

"Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo"

- Born on December 10, 1927 in Fontaine-Valmont (Belgium)
- Entered the Postulancy on December 20, 1950 in Mons (Belgium)
- Became a Novice on July 23, 1951 in Forges (France)
- First Vows on July 26, 1952 in Forges (France)
- Perpetual Vows on August 26, 1956, at Val Notre Dame
- Died on February 13, 2021, at the Résidence Sainte-Anne (Boitsfort)

Communities where Sr. Beatrice had lived:

- Val Notre Dame - Belgium 1956-1958
- Gisenyi - Rwanda 1958-1959
- Copenhagen - Denmark 1959-1965
- Val Notre Dame - Belgium 1965-1973
- Cannes - France 1973-2005
- Orléans - France 2005-2010
- Boitsfort - Belgium 2010-2015
- Ciney - Belgium 2015-2019
- Residence St. Anne (Boitsfort) - Belgium 2019-2021

Sr. Béatrice was born into a large Christian family from the Mons area. She got to know the Assumption as a pupil in Mons.

Her great desire had always been to serve. She lived out this call during her many years on mission: 1 year in Rwanda, 6 years in Denmark, then 8 years in Val ND and then many years in France, including 32 years in Cannes where, as a supervisor-educator, she welcomed the children at the school gates, a place of special contact with the families, on whom she

left a deep impression, including teachers and friends who, on hearing of her death, sent us a number of testimonies, some of which are mentioned below:

"I met Sister Béatrice in 1997 when I took up my post at Lochabair School (Assumption Cannes). I was 24 at the time, young and new, and she welcomed me with open arms and taught me a lot about the school and her Community. The families and children had a great deal of affection and admiration for her, and she knew everyone's first name. We had lots of laughs, and I remember the mussels and chips that the chef made especially for her. When I meet former students of the school, they always talk to me about Sister Béatrice. And mine first of all... Bon voyage to Our Lord".

"We were very fond of Sister Béatrice and went to visit her in Belgium. Her favorite flower was the anemone, and since we learned of her death, a bouquet of anemones blooms on our mantelpiece.

I met Sr. Béatrice in 1986, when I was a teacher and had obtained a post at the Lochabair school in Cannes. She gave me a warm welcome and became a friend and, over the years, a member of our family. She was discreet, always available, very loyal and very devoted. The children, the parents and the whole educational team appreciated her. She greeted each and every one of us at the school gate every day.... We were delighted to be able to visit her in Belgium. What a lovely welcome the Community gave us! Such warm and kind Sisters. Sr. Béatrice leaves a lovely and tender memory for all the families who knew her in Cannes.

"The memory that comes to mind first is the dedication of Sr. Béatrice who came to help us, ... I have great memories of her who was always there for us...".

"Sister Béatrice, a smiling, reassuring figure in front of the school gate in the rain, in the cold, in the scorching heat, always there with a little word for each of us. I'm sure that from up there she continues to watch over us."

Those of us who knew about Beatrice's vulnerabilities were happy and touched to receive so many beautiful testimonies that revealed to us her gift of relationships with so many families.

After Cannes came the age of retirement, and Sr. Béatrice left the South of France for Orléans, a Community made up mainly of elderly Sisters.

In 2010, she returned to Belgium, to the Community of Boitsfort.

In 2015, she joined the Community of elderly Sisters of Ciney.

In 2019, the entire Ciney Community was leaving for Brussels. Some of them, including Béatrice, were going to the Résidence Ste Anne (a rest home close to the Boitsfort Community). It was from there that Béatrice joined the Assumption of Heaven.

From our home in Boitsfort, we regularly visited our Sisters at Sainte Anne. Sr. Marie Cécile recounts: "During my last visit to Béatrice, I said 'goodbye' to her several times, and she didn't reply... And during one last 'goodbye', she said to me with humor: 'we're going to take the plane', and I replied: 'yes, to heaven'... and eight days later, Béatrice left us.

Sister Marie Sophie, our Provincial, wrote to the Sisters of the Communities:

"Sister Béatrice Marie went to be with the Lord on February 13. He, whom she so longed to see, came to take her in her sleep. She had been able to receive the Sacrament of the Sick on January 9, when she seemed on the point of dying, but she regained her strength....

We give thanks for Beatrice's life of self-giving. She often shared a verse from the Gospel (Transfiguration) that had touched her intimately many years ago, and which spoke of her great desire: "And they saw Jesus alone". We are moved and happy to know that Beatrice has arrived on the mountain, and that at last she sees "Jesus alone", Love.

The Boitsfort Community

(Original in French)

Sister Marie Cécile of the Blessed Sacrament

Marie Cécile de Prêt - Roose de Calesberg

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word."

- Born on May 24, 1923 in Brussels (Belgium)
- Entered the Postulancy on January 6, 1942 at Val Notre Dame
- Became a Novice on July 6, 1942 at Val Notre Dame
- First Vows on September 4, 1943 in Plessis-Bret (France)
- Perpetual Vows on September 25, 1946 at Val Notre Dame
- Died on February 18, 2021 in Guayaquil (Ecuador)

Marie Cécile Ghislaine de Pret Roose de Calesberg was born in Brussels (Belgium) on May 24, 1923. She came from a close-knit family with strong family ties and military roots. She was the third of six children.

Like her family, Marie Cécile lived in Liège. Val de Notre-Dame is about 11 km. from the city. The de Pret family's second daughter, Béatrice, studied there from a distance. When her sister finished her studies, she herself enrolled Marie Cécile at the school, and she took her sister's place. She entered the boarding school. She spent her last three years there, the third, fourth and fifth courses. This gave her a better understanding of religious life: she felt the closeness, joy and cordiality of the Mothers.

From the age of twelve, Marie Cécile carried in her heart the desire to be like the White Fathers she had known. They were missionaries in Africa. They worked with poor families and were close to the people. She discovered a missionary vocation that would stay with her all her life.

At the age of 18, she told her father of her desire to become a religious and consecrate herself to the Lord. He accepted this desire and communicated it to her mother, who also approved.

On January 6, 1941, Feast of the Epiphany, she and her sister got on their bicycles at six o'clock in the morning and went to the Val de Notre Dame Abbey where the Religious of the Assumption lived. Marie Cécile, at the

age of 18, had made up her mind: she would stay there for good. In the afternoon, her parents went to the Mothers to make official their daughter's decision to belong to the Lord.

Her missionary vocation was lovingly supported by her family, a large and loving family with whom she maintained a close and loving relationship right up to the end. This last year was a difficult one for her as she lost her last two siblings, to whom she was very close, to the pandemic.

Marie Cécile was sent to Brittany (France) to make her novitiate. When she entered the Congregation, she kept the same name, and did not change it as was the custom. The reason was that at that time there was no one else with that name. She took as mystery one that had always attracted her and still did: the Blessed Sacrament. The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist attracted her and made her spend long moments in adoration before Him.

She completed her novitiate and was sent to Mons (Belgium) where she came into contact with the world of education. She stayed there until 1946, when she returned to Le Val and made her perpetual profession on September 25, 1946. She knew it was forever. "She decided to give herself and not to lend herself", as Saint Marie Eugénie would say.

Cécile put her trust in the Word of the Lord and gave her life with the phrase she chose as the words for her ring: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to Your word".

It was with this feeling and desire to be at the Lord's disposal that she remained, as a young professed Sister, at Val Notre Dame, living with Sisters from other countries and cultures.

And she continued to feel the call to mission ad gentes. Sister Marie Denyse confirmed the missionary vocation she always had and for which she was always ready, at any time and in any place. She was assigned to Nicaragua and, knowing virtually no Spanish, she began with the little ones with whom she had a special affinity. With them, she learned the children's words and expressions. Her young heart loved these people, and she forged bonds with the poorest of the poor that she would always keep close to her heart.

In 1957, on March 22, Mother Francisca de Paula, Provincial of Central America, sent her to the new foundation in Ecuador and she arrived in Guayaquil with four other Sisters, where she lived all her life and where we had the grace to have her with us until the end.

I met Cécile at the age of 72. She was a Sister who was present with a helpful look and gesture, and very quiet. Her presence was felt through her discreet and unconditional service. She was always there when she was needed. There where no one noticed her, she passed by and left her mark.

Her words of welcome to the Sisters were fraternal and beautiful. It was a pleasure to be received like that. You felt at home.

Words were not her strong point, but she had unfailing conviction and determination. She was aware of everything that was going on around her, she knew how to keep quiet and resist situations with which she sometimes disagreed, but she lived through them with great self-sacrifice.

I've been lucky enough to live with Cécile for the last seven years, and I thank God for having had the privilege and grace of living with witnesses like her. With disciples who have consciously given their lives to the very end for the Lord Jesus, to have seen how human and spiritual maturity consists in spiritual childhood.

I thank God, along with the whole Community, for having had among us a Sister who was totally happy in what she was, for having her as a model of a person who gave what she was and what she knew, who let others be, who appreciated everything that was good with immense freedom, who knew how to adapt to new situations and who never weighed down the Community. On the contrary, she was a presence that filled the Community, a necessary point of reference that we now carry in our hearts. Her life has been an extraordinary model of kindness, tenderness, welcome and service for us, the Sisters of the whole Province, and for the lay people who have grown up and lived with her.

We can only thank the Lord for having given us Cécile as the last bastion of the foundation of Guayaquil. She was the foundress of the College and of our presence here in Ecuador. She brought generations together and

created unity between old and new students. She was a point of reference for all of us.

Times of prayer were a source of immense joy for her. When she was taken to the chapel in her wheelchair, she would enter and see all the new things that were there, she would look around, she would give praise if there was something she liked, she would notice everything and everyone, she would wave and stay at the feet of her Lord for a long time. During the Office, even though she could no longer follow it in her last years, she never stopped opening the breviary and singing with all her might the hymns she knew.

Her love for the poorest of the poor was constant. She was always thinking of them and accompanying them. Many families grew up with her. She had a great capacity for empathy and compassion for those in need.

I've received many things from her over the years. My legacy is her generosity and her constant gratitude. Thank you was the last word of the day with which she said goodbye when we put her to bed. Her attitude was one of gratitude towards each of the Sisters who helped her get around. I never heard a word of complaint, lament or demand from her. On the contrary, she was always ready to let anyone help her. In recent years, she had been totally dependent on someone as she couldn't get around. She was at the mercy of whoever thought of her.

She let herself be loved and loved very much. She was very sensitive to signs of affection and passed them on in her own way. After an absence, she would greet you with a gesture of open arms and a frank, open smile that made you feel appreciated and loved. And she was extremely grateful and poor at the same time. She had no demands. She never needed anything, on the contrary, it was difficult to convince her that she needed certain things, a walker, a medicalized bed, a more comfortable chair, hearing aids and a few other things. The Community provided these to improve her quality of life, as she was losing her relationships and the ability to continue her work. But when she was told it was for her own good and that of the Community, she accepted instantly.

She always had authority in what she said and how she said it. Her words were precise, short and decisive. At the same time, she loved to play

games and make jokes. She was very attentive to the needs of others. Living with her over the last few years has been a real joy.

The last week before her departure, we were preparing the Provincial Assembly. We had a questionnaire with several questions. One of them was: what is the best thing the Province has to offer? We were all speechless at the conviction and speed with which she expressed one of her certainties, the value of each of the Sisters.

She was a very poor Sister and at the same time very free. She was demanding when she did things. If they weren't done properly, she'd say to you with an expression: "you've done it a rather well" and you'd understand that you hadn't gone all the way, that it was only half done.

She loved and respected nature. Lately, she liked to watch the birds bathing in the garden, in a container where she always made sure there was enough water for them. She loved picking mangoes and avocados. And she was happy to share them. She knew the process of each plant.

Cécile always liked being in Community, even if she couldn't follow what was being said. She loved what the Community had to offer. She perceived and appreciated beauty and goodness. She laughed out loud like a child. She had a great sense of humor and an inner joy that always made her grateful. Four days before her death, she watched Charlie Chaplin's film *El Niño* with the Community. She followed it, understood it, laughed heartily and enjoyed it.

Cécile felt God's presence in her life. In September, she told me she wanted to meet Him. She knew that the Lord was already coming for her. That's why she was already putting up some resistance when we tried to relieve her weakness with medication. She was very aware of the moment she was living in. Right to the end, and with great serenity, she surrendered herself into the loving hands of the Father.

The Sisters were with her. A few hours before she died, she opened her eyes and when she saw the whole Community around her, she looked at each of us, smiled and said: "Thank you". That was her last word to the Community. It reflected what her life had been.

Her resilience and strength did me good. I'll always remember her walking to school with the will to walk lightly, for a long time and without access to comfort.

Generations of former pupils remember her at playtime. More than one of them realized that her sense of justice came from Mother Cécile, ever since they were little girls, in the way she divided up the time each one spent on the swings.

In the same way, the infirmary was the magical place where they found a remedy for their pains, their aches, their anxieties and their fears. Mother Cécile healed everything. Everyone left the infirmary with the peace and serenity that she transmitted and that healed. Her remedies were prodigious for young and old alike. No one left the infirmary without a word of encouragement, without having been listened to and having received advice and affection.

The technical room and infirmary were a refuge for anyone who needed help. Mother Cécile provided them with the necessary means and taught them responsibility, resourcefulness, recovery and the best use of materials. She was very demanding when it came to the proper distribution and use of resources, and did not allow waste or abuse. Simplicity and austerity were values that teachers and students sensed by her very presence.

At break time, the children were happy to go to the technical room where Mother Cécile had resources that fascinated them and were irresistible for their age. They learned how to get by and negotiate with her. The little ones always came out on top.

When we saw her in her last years at school, we all knew that she was the eloquent presence of history, of what the Assumption had brought to Guayaquil society. The pupils knew Mother Cécile through their grandmothers and mothers. They had heard of Mother Cécile and in the minds of the pupils she became an admirable figure, loved and endearing. Beside her, they all felt unique and had a story to tell.

She will remain in the society of Guayaquil as a person whose presence alone was eloquent and influential for fifty-eight generations of Assumptionists. All carry the name of Mother Cécile in their hearts, and

when they think of her, they are filled with feelings of renewal, welcome, kindness and the Gospel.

Ascension Gonzalez Calle, Superior of the Guayaquil Community
(Original in Spanish)

Sister Marie Marthe of the Visitation

Odette Louise Suzanne Vaultier

"You made us for yourself, Lord."

- Born on December 11, 1928 in Hyenville, Normandy
- Entered the Postulancy on October 3, 1953, with the Augustines de Coutances (50)
- Became a Novice on September 18, 1954
- First Vows on August 4, 1956
- Perpetual Vows on October 22, 1959 in Coutances
- Died on February 21, 2021 in Etampes, near Paris

As she herself wrote: "I was born into a modest Christian family, the first girl after two boys, much to my father's delight. Two other girls were born later. My joy was looking after my little sisters. The arrival of the Germans in our village delayed my solemn Communion. I made it on July 25, 1940. In August, Michelle was born, the youngest, but five days later, Papa died suddenly. The eldest of my brothers was sixteen; he became the family breadwinner, an apprentice at the flour mill where our father had worked.

In 1941 or 42, I don't remember, our priest was arrested, as was the mayor of the commune. In 1943, when he was 18, my eldest brother was requisitioned for the labor camps (S.T.O.). A letter from our doctor declaring him to be the breadwinner of the family enabled him to continue to contribute to the family's material needs, even though we were starting to run out of everything. Tickets were needed for bread, etc. Mama had to "do housework", including at the local school, to feed her six children.

What's more, it was wartime, with restrictions and the village occupied by the Germans. In spite of this, Mom's love was so great that, in addition to her six children, she gave slices of butter and jam to three poor children who had nothing at home because their parents were infirm, until the mayor placed them in the hospice in Coutances. We always thought that Mom was depriving herself for these unfortunate children."

In agreement with the teacher and to allow her mother to work to support the family, Odette stayed at home to look after the youngest daughter. For two years, she did her schoolwork, brought to her by the other schoolmates. We can only admire her courage and perseverance!

A great-aunt was a nun with the Augustines who ran the Hôtel-Dieu in Coutances, and the family would visit her. As the order was semi-cloistered, she would pass her finger through the railings to get closer to her dear aunt. One day, the aunt said to Odette's mother: "Perhaps one of your four daughters will be a nun" and Odette replied: "Not me!"

In 1944, to escape the bombardments, the family, like so many others, had to go into exile, leaving the house, which was found without shutters or doors, destroyed, looted and uninhabitable for a year and a half.

To help her family, it was time for Odette to enter the world of work. A doctor was looking for a young girl to accompany him on his rounds and act as secretary for vaccinations. She took on this job for two years, but the separation from her family was too much for her; she returned home and found a job in a restaurant with one of her sisters. Odette didn't like this kind of work, so she left and was taken by the Coutances clinic, which had taken refuge in a large building because it had been completely destroyed by the bombing. She really enjoyed caring for the wounded and sick, but mastoiditis, which left her deaf in one ear, forced her to return home for treatment.

When she recovered, her mother sent her to learn how to sew liturgical vestments. She wrote: "I didn't like it very much because I needed to move around. During those years, thanks to Mom's prayers (?) I heard the Lord's call, but I had to wait because my brothers didn't understand my choice. But the Lord's call was there and I joined the Coutances Community on October 3, 1953, the feast of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus". She was

not the only one to enter, but after a few months the others left the novitiate.

On completing her Postulancy, she received the black habit of the Congregation and became Sister Marie Marthe on September 18, 1954. She made her First Vows on August 4, 1956.

In the 1959 parish bulletin, the parish priest of her native village, Abbé Ybert, wrote: "On Thursday October 22, in the chapel of the Augustinian of Coutances, Odette Vaultier, in religion Sister Marie Marthe, pronounced her Perpetual Vows. A fine group of parishioners from Hyenville participated in it. The parish is honored and proud of this vocation and sends its best wishes to the little Sister, commends itself to her prayers and expresses its heartfelt sympathy and congratulations to her family."

In 1960, she received small obediences in the Community and the hospital. She trained as a nurse in 1965, "out of obedience" as she would later say, because at the time she didn't feel the vocation. In the end, she trained as a care giver, "which suited me well".

After several years in the same general medical department, she moved on to other departments in the hospital, and eventually had to take on the responsibility of deputy head of the department. She remained there for eighteen years, until she left to work with the elderly at the Saint Vincent Retirement Home in another part of Coutances. She spent ten years there, despite the limited space available to the Community.

In the meantime, the Augustinian Sisters of Coutances had merged with those of the Precious Blood of Arras, and the Sisters come "to the green areas", for retreats, sessions, the younger ones for holidays (the sea is 12 kms. away) and even to review for their exams.

Then came a new stage for Sr. Marie Marthe: "When I reached retirement age, it was with great regret and sorrow that I left Normandy". In the meantime, the large Community working at the hospital had been closed, and Sr. Marie Marthe was sent to Paris, to the Notre Dame Community on rue des Plantes, "to serve the Sisters in the infirmary, not as easy as with lay people. The sacrifice was to do God's will there. I did what I

could for the sick Sisters, who were sometimes confused. In 2002 I was transferred to the Community in Troyes in Champagne.

The "Mon Repos" Retirement Home, located in the heart of the town, is surrounded by greenery. Sisters have worked there as care givers, including Sr. Madeleine Lamiot, who was the Superior of the Community welcoming Sisters in need of rest or holidays.

No doubt as a result of her childhood and the shock of her father's death, Marie Marthe retained a depressive temperament. She could sometimes be unpleasant when a visit did not go her way. Her slightly "husky" voice accentuated the expression of her discontent, but she knew how to apologize afterwards. Marie Marthe could also be delicate, caring and kind. She remained very attached to her family, following its events, sometimes taking them too much to heart to the point of making herself ill.

When the Community in Troyes, opened a long time ago by the Augustines de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Paris to provide a maternity ward, was closed. Sr. Marie Marthe entered the St. Joseph EHPAD in Etampes near Paris where she had family, at her request. There, she once more found a Community.

As the person in charge of accompanying this Community, at a meeting I suggested that each of them freely evoke her name as a nun. Marie Marthe confided that she didn't like hers because it was the name of a great-aunt, but when the possibility of changing the name was offered, she didn't do it. On that day, she expressed her joy that "Saint Marthe is a great figure of the Gospel".

A woman of prayer, she remained so until the day of her encounter with the Lord on February 21, 2021. Her funeral was held in the chapel of the St. Joseph EHPAD, where she lived for the last eight years. She now lives to the full the words of Saint Augustine that she had made her own: "You have made us for yourself Lord".

It was at my request that Sister Marie Marthe write this account of her life and entrusted it to me on January 18, 2017. There was so much suffering expressed in it! It is also with her agreement that I share it with you and give thanks to the Lord for what she was.

At the request of the Diocesan Council for Religious Life in Arras, we asked our elders to write and share their memories of the 1939-1945 war, which Sr. Marie Marthe diligently did.

Sister Marie Françoise Bisiaux

(Original in French)

Sister Marianne Eulalia de Jésus

Fausta Concepcion Araojo

“I came that they may have life.”

- Born on August 5, 1944, in Catanduanes
- Entered the Postulancy on April 30, 1963 in Manila
- Became a Novice on April 30, 1964 in Manila
- First Vows on February 2, 1966 in Manila
- Final Vows on June 6, 1971 in San Lorenzo
- Death on March 3, 2021 in Antipolo

We celebrate God’s fidelity and mercy in the life of Sr. Marianne Eulalia de Jesus. She was 76 years old and on the 55th year of her religious consecration.

Marianne Eulalia de Jésus was born Fausta Concepción Araojo on August 5, 1944 to Marcelo and Eulalia Araojo. She was the youngest of 11 children. She entered the convent in Herran, Manila and made her First Vows on February 11, 1966 and her Final Vows on June 6, 1971 in Assumption San Lorenzo.

During her 55 years of religious consecration, she had been assigned to various Communities such as: Herran, Sibalom, Iloilo, Santiago-Isabela, Passi, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Pakjan, Bangkok, Kadingilan/Kibangay, the Novitiate, Kauswagan, San Simon and San Lorenzo where she stayed the longest. She made Jesus Christ known and loved first and foremost

through her being and her action. She was Sacristine, Dorm Mistress, Catechist, teacher, campus minister, retreat facilitator, vocation promoter, friend and mentor to many.

True to the Word engraved in her ring, “I have come that they may have life,” she followed Jesus, her Beloved, faithfully and served Him generously. Deep in her heart, she knew that her time was coming. Last January, cognizant of her terminal illness, she requested to be transferred to the Antipolo Community. She predicted that she will stay in Antipolo Community for only two weeks and she lived her life to the fullest. She spent her last days in deep prayer and joyful Community encounters. She had graciously and courageously faced her final passion as she succumbed to her illness and surrendered everything to God. She passed on to greater life in faith and serenity before midnight on March 3, 2021.

We entrust her to the love of the Father, the grace of His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit, there, where she will surely continue to intercede for us in eternity. In this Eucharistic Celebration, let us celebrate her life, lived to the fullest until the end.

(Original in English)

Sister Florentina María of Christ the King

Florentina Ordás Flórez

"Magnificat anima mea dominum"

- Born on December 30, 1928 in La Urz Riello (Spain)
- Entered the Postulancy on December 15, 1957 in San Sebastian
- Became a Novice on January 15, 1959 in Valladolid
- First Vows on January 16, 1961 in Valladolid
- Perpetual Vows on January 16, 1966 in Madrid - Los Olivos
- Died on March 13, 2021 in Riofrío

Florentina was born in a small village in the Province of León (La Urz) into a family of seven brothers and sisters, to whom she remained very

close. Very quickly she had the desire to do more than stay in the village and so she went to live with her older sister in Gijón, where she met the Assumption. She always remembered that first meeting when she felt welcomed by Mother Josefa Ignacia, then Superior of the school in Gijón.

Flor loved life, nature and flowers. She was a person full of vitality and gratitude, who enjoyed celebrations, liturgy, adoration, meetings and Community Life. She had many friendships that she tried to maintain by passing on her inner spirituality and prayer.

She was a contemplative woman. She spent long moments in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, remembering all the people she knew and in particular the Sisters of the Community. Her desire to live fully for the Lord led her to put a lot of effort into fraternal charity, to live in praise and joy. Mary played a very important role in her life and, like her, she sought God's will in her life and responded with a "YES".

The Sisters remember her as a very good and pleasant person in the Community. Here are a few testimonies:

"To talk about Flor is to discover what God can do when we are open and let ourselves be touched by the Spirit. When I heard that Flor had gone to the Father's house, I spontaneously said to myself: 'Thank you, Lord, and welcome her into your Kingdom and fill her with your love and grace'. I had the chance to live with her in two Communities and I learned a lot from her, from her simplicity and humility, from her transparency and from her life, wanting to belong to the God of life, always open to following His will.

I was always struck by the way she prepared the Community meetings: her simple expression, the depth of the content and the demands of her life. I could see that she let herself be touched by the Spirit, Who she listened to every day in prayer and in times of adoration.

What services she rendered to everyone and everywhere! She was always ready to lend a hand, without being noticed and knowing how to take a back seat. She appreciated Community meetings and the little attentions she received. The word 'thank you' was her response to all this, with a joyful, transparent look."

"I lived with Flor for about 9 years but even before we lived together, there was affection between us, because that was one of Flor's characteristics. She loved the Sisters, and every time she met one of us, we were always greeted with her smile and a word of joy and affection.

Flor loved Community Life, being with the Sisters and enjoying all the moments we had together. Even when she could no longer walk very well, she tried to keep up with us and be present, and loved going out, which she herself organized, because she was a cheerful woman who loved life and was interested in everything.

I remember Flor as a woman of prayer. She always prayed faithfully in the morning in the chapel, beginning her prayers with the rosary and the litanies to the Virgin. She had a great devotion to Mary and always told me that we had to pray a lot, for everyone and for everything.

She also knew how to express her closeness and concern for the Sisters. I remember that she often said to me: 'Beni, how hard you work! She said it as a thank you, but also as a warning: 'Be careful, don't tire yourself too much'... Perhaps she felt that her weakness meant that she could no longer do so much, but she knew how to value that in others.

To sum up, I can say that it was a grace and a privilege to know Flor and to live with her, to have her as a Sister in the Community and in the Congregation. She is now tasting the fullness of life in God and Mary; the Virgin must have served as her gateway to heaven. We entrust ourselves to her and ask her to intercede for us.

Flor arrived in Riofrío in May 2017, already very weakened, but with great lucidity, which she retained to the end. The Riofrío Community thanks God for having had the opportunity to live this last stage of her life with Flor and to enjoy the richness of her spiritual life and the simplicity and joy of her fraternal life. She also was always very attentive to the staff of the house, always concerned about their work and wanting to see them rest. Despite her long life, her death took us by surprise, but she left us in great peace.

The Riofrío Community

(Original in Spanish)

Sister Maria Alessandra of the Sacred Heart

Annita Antonietta Zanolla

"Tu solus

- Born on March 4, 1940 in CASTEL D'AZZANO (Italy)
- Entered the Postulancy on December 5, 1959 in Auteuil
- Became a Novice on July 28, 1960 in Auteuil
- First Vows on August 5, 1961 in Auteuil
- Perpetual Vows on September 4, 1966 in Terraglione
- Death on March 17, 2021 in Rome-Quadraro

The decision to write this circular about Sr. Alessandra took a while... perhaps because of a fear of approaching the mystery of her personality without being able to grasp it accurately...

On March 17, 2020, the Lord came at dawn, at the hour of the morning that Alessandra had always loved to pray...

The long illness of Alzheimer had purified her like gold in a melting pot, in a gradual stripping away of her faculties, in psycho-physical suffering, in the powerlessness that had made her such an icon of the patient Christ, an image of His Heart, the "Mystery" of her life. The Spouse was able to bring about in her the "Tu solus" inscribed in her ring.

During her last days, we surrounded her especially with prayer, singing as she loved. When she could still speak, she adapted the words of a love song that said: "You, Lord, are the most beautiful in the world. You are my only love and I will always be with you". Thinking of Alessandra in God comforts us.

Alessandra's life in the north of Italy, near Verona, was rooted in a closely-knit family of 5 children. The Zanolla family moved to Sardinia because of her father's work. It was a deeply Christian family whose life was shaped by prayer (rosary and daily Mass), work and the children's commitment to their secondary and university studies.

She got to know the Assumption in Cagliari having been a pupil there from the age of 13 up to High School. During those years, her Christian and human formation was deepened in the values of the Gospel and the spirit of the Assumption, which she began to appreciate and love.

At the age of 19 she had a glimpse of her vocation and decided that she wanted to follow God. The Assumption was the answer to her desire to follow Christ. Auteuil was to be the cradle of her Postulancy until her Juniorate and she continued her education in the Classics at the S. Coeur faculty in Milan.

After becoming a Religious of the Assumption, this young woman with an open and communicative character became a brilliant teacher and a loving and beloved educator (Cagliari, Genoa, Padua, Rome). Then, in the years after the Council, along with Egle and Maria Paola, she chose to teach in state schools, participating in the movement of a Church "on the move".

Alessandra had an exquisite interpersonal relationship which always made her to be attentive to each individual, so that in the various places where she was sent (schools, parish integration in Genoa, the university residence in Padua), she knew how to express a closeness full of humanity whose source was in following Christ and His Gospel.

The Community dimension was an important part of her life: her fraternal, tender and delicate heart, her good humor and also her uprightness, which did not hold back the truth when it was necessary, always with great respect and a willingness to listen, to try to understand the other person to the end and thus to offer valuable advice. She had a freshness and innocence that was striking and evident on her face.

Her sensitive nature meant that there was a background of apprehension and uncertainty in her, which led her to approach the other with humility and a willingness to engage in dialogue.

The way she related with others favored sincere friendships that mutually valued each other's qualities, without hiding limitations or fragilities. Alessandra had a gift for asking the right questions that helped others to question themselves without feeling judged.

She saw the international nature of the Congregation as a rich opportunity to forge beautiful friendships with Sisters and friends around the world.

Alessandra's life was also nourished and sustained by friendships rooted in faith with priests and spiritual counsellors.

We appreciate her gift of discernment, expressed also in the exercise of her responsibilities (Superior, Councilor, Provincial), she knew how to keep together the deep roots of our charism and the humble openness to new paths for the Assumption.

Alessandra leaves us a testimony of cheerfulness, joy, lightness, gentleness and thanksgiving that was also expressed in her love for the Liturgy, folk songs, art and Creation in all their beauty.

Finally, we do not wish to conceal what was the golden thread of her existence: her profound and free search for God, her openness to the Mystery, her rootedness in listening to the Word, tasted and contemplated in silence, like a beggar invoking the gift of continual prayer.

Her nephews write:

Dear aunt, you have finished suffering. We thank you for what you gave us of yourself, thank you for your wisdom and your kindness, your real closeness as the most beautiful testimony of a life given to others.

We thank the Sisters for all the love and devotion they have always shown you, especially in these last years; you have always had a word of love and closeness for everyone, ciao dear aunt, continue to accompany us from up there.

We know how much good you did to everyone that met you; how much we will miss you... But we are sure that you are close to God in peace.

The sea was your passion... "The sea of Sardinia is marvelous", you always said! You loved to immerse yourself for hours on end and admire the rocky depths...

From the first day I met you, I knew what a wonderful woman you were: unique, sunny, energetic, full of love for your family and especially for your nephews. Your strength and your smile filled with a special love, that of your Spouse Jesus.

Thank you for being with us in the precious moments of our lives. You knew how to always be there, kind and loving, with care and wisdom. You had the fragrance of the sea, of the rock, of the sun, of the Gospel loved and lived, of songs, of shared praise, so you will always remain in my heart for eternity. You'll be with me on every beach, and I'll always be searching the depths for your sweet smile! Ciao my sweet Aunt Anita."

(Original in Italian)

Sister Marie de l'Enfant Jésus

Marie-Sophie Teissèdre

"Et Verbum caro factum est."

- Born on May 10, 1921 in Cheylade, Cantal (France)
- Entered the Postulancy on February 18, 1944, in Lyon
- Became a Novice on January 5, 1945 in Lyon
- First Vows on February 1, 1946 in Bordeaux
- Perpetual Vows on April 30, 1949 (anniversary of the foundation) in Lyon-Bellevue
- Died on Easter Monday April 6, 2021 in Montpellier

Marie was about to celebrate her 100th birthday. The Community and her faithful friends at the College, where she was a librarian for many years, were conspiring to mark the occasion; we were thinking of a tartan rug, but the Coronavirus decided otherwise.

"This morning, at daybreak, our Sister Mary, as in today's Gospel, heard the voice of her Lord calling her "Mary! And we imagine that He gently took her by the hand to take her with Him." (Message to the Communities of the Province)

She was the daughter of a classic, deeply Christian family. Her sister-in-law, Monique, tells us: "For her parents, a relationship with God was essential. Their faith was strong, nourished by prayer and assiduous religious practice. That's how Guy's and Marie's vocations were born.

Unusually, on April 30, 1949, in the Assumption Chapel in Lyon-Bellevue, her brother Guy was ordained a priest on the day of her perpetual profession. "Both were driven by the desire to make Jesus known and to work with young people". Monique continues: "My parents-in-law were certainly proud, but they were also heartbroken to lose their daughter... beautiful, intelligent, artistic, self-effacing but strong-willed; she was their ray of sunshine...". This family separation, harsh at the time, was later softened by family visits to the family home in the Cantal. The four generations loved to get together around Jean Teissèdre, her brother; young and old charmed everyone with shows and concerts held under the windows of the big house that Marie loved to return to. In fact, it was there that she had to take refuge in 1939-1940, with her brothers and sister, at the start of the Second World War, when it was preferable to get away from Lyon.

When we started this circular, we noticed her complete first name on her card: Marie-Sophie! It suited her so well! Sophie = Wisdom! Marie was a teacher at heart. Who doesn't still remember her coming to give instructions at the Auteuil Juniorate, which Mother Marie-Denyse had entrusted to her in the early 60s? She introduced us to the subtleties of the vocabulary that would enable us to tackle the History of the Great Councils and the rudiments of theology: nature, grace, essence, person, subsistence, accidents... She would enter the room with her arms full of piles of books, marked on the pages for the quotations she had prepared with great care. Quotations from "our Venerable Mother Foundress" were the priority, of course!

She was also very attentive to what we said on our return from the Catholic Institute, encouraging our efforts to express ourselves and supporting our concern for clarity in transmission. For a time, she was Directress of Studies at the Forges boarding school. Mother Catherine-Emmanuel was a Superior who tried to support her and "put a soul" into it, she used to say.

On hearing of her death, Sr. Christine Foulon said: "Our Sister Marie left us during this Easter season, with this Gospel! She left with her mystery...".

Marie was fragile. Her life was marked by very serious health and psychological problems. The upheavals in society as a whole, in the educational establishment, in the structures of Community life, the future of the Church, even as outlined by the Council, were no longer always clear. She was suffering enormously, living in a kind of perpetual, sickly anguish, leaving her Superiors and her Community powerless and helpless. Finally, a drastic decision by the Council of Sr. Marie-Blandine led our Sister to spend several months in the clinic of Docteur de Bataille. Marie was very well cared for in this institution specializing in priests and religious, and was gradually able to return to Community life.

It was in Montpellier that she found the space she needed and the ideal setting for her apostolic zeal, her literary skills and her passion for young people. There, she worked as a catechist with secondary school pupils, helped them with their schoolwork and put her extensive knowledge at the service of the library team. Her great kindness earned her many friendships and visits, many years after she retired.

Here are a few testimonials received after her death:

"On March 10, I took the time to chat with her! Many moments come back to me: the KT in 5ème ... Goodbye Marie." (Delphine Balas, Assumption Together)

"I was very fond of Sr. Marie, who was very affectionate towards my children. My daughter Justine remembers a discussion with her about Le Cid (the play by Corneille) that made us laugh a lot." (Véronique Thiercelin)

"I'll be with you at Ste Thérèse Church. It will be my way of thanking Sister Marie for the friendship she showed my eldest son, Pierre, when he was at school. He too will be in communion of prayer with us tomorrow afternoon" (D. Thérond)

"As you say, she had to answer 'Rabbouni!' 100 years is no mean feat! I'd hoped to give her the joy of seeing her again, but it's only a postponement now! (Sr. Anne-Bernard)

Marie was never bored. She thought a lot and wrote a lot, writing pages and pages every day on the subjects of education, the thought of "our Mother Foundress", and the Church. These were her favorite subjects. Her

successive Provincials remember her abundant and frequent correspondence on these subjects. She read and kept a mountain of newspaper cuttings that were absolutely forbidden to be touched. When she was offered any other activity, Marie almost always declined because she had "too much work".

At a time when COVID affected many of us and sent the most vulnerable to the hospital, it was from home that Mary responded to the Lord's final call. And just as Sister Catherine-Myriam was taking steps to celebrate her funeral, we learned of the death of Sister Anne-Cécile, this time already in the hospital. Decidedly, "everything is common between us! They took the Community spirit, so dear to the Assumption, to the point of making their last journey together.

Often deprived of the Eucharist during this period of confinement, the fraternal availability of our Assumptionist Brothers brought us together around these two coffins, in the nearby Church, with friends from the Community and parishioners. Some of Sister Marie's relatives were there, sharing our prayer and our hope: "You have opened wide the door of the very old garden. You who know the life, the heart, the sorrows, the ardent labor and the joys of our two Sisters, you offer them rest. May they continue to accompany us, hidden with Christ in You, on the path that leads to You."

The Montpellier Community

(Original in French)

Sister Anne Cécile of Nazareth

Cécile Lestienne

"Abscondita cum Christo in Deo" – "Hidden with Christ in God"

- Born on March 3, 1929 in La Madeleine, near Lille (France)
- Entered the Postulancy on October 31, 1950, in Forges
- Became a Novice on May 14, 1951 at Forges
- First vows on June 23, 1952 in Forges
- Perpetual profession August 18, 1955 in Lubeck, Paris
- Died on April 6, 2021 in Montpellier

Anne, the eldest of six children with deep roots in the North of France, which is rich in large families, often allied to one another. There are real dynasties of entrepreneurs, ingenious and courageous, rising from the ruins of every war of which this region was the first victim. They left solid bastions, for the vigor of the country and the Church, until globalization and secularization come to shake it all up.

Madame Lestienne led her gang and Anne, as the eldest sister, took her share of managing the little troupe; according to her sisters, this young authority was no laughing matter!

After studying with the Dominican Sisters in the Paris region, then in Lubeck, as the family had left the North, Anne entered the Assumption, which had just moved into Forges, shortly before her sister Martine.

A teacher at heart, it was above all in her life as an educator that she made her mark. Fifty years on, some of her elders still have fond memories of her. They speak of "veneration" and even "adoration"! Mail was a real joy for her, as she lived out the rest of her life without ever complaining, between her bed and the armchair to which her many infirmities confined her. She, only occasionally, softly, expressed the desire to walk, and a month before her death, the desire to be able to read. Desires that remained unfulfilled! She was very discreet in this respect, as she had been throughout her life, particularly when it came to her family trials.

There was also the visit of her sister Nicole, who came to Montpellier several times a year for a few days, both to see her and to look after her sister Martine. After leaving the Congregation and working at the French embassy in Beirut, she moved to Montpellier and we felt that she was losing her bearings and that her health was, unfortunately, going to deteriorate...

Hélène Padilla - Viaud is trying to find her former teacher. "I must have known Sr. Anne-Cécile in 1957," she tells us; "I was in the 3rd class, with the one who became Sister Françoise (Espérion). After my wedding ceremony in April 1964, we came to kiss her...". Once contact had been re-established, Hélène was faithful beyond description, giving news of all her family several times a year, and making special trips with her husband to visit our Sister.

At Christmas 2014, another wrote: "Do you remember? We met in 1969... it was you who guided my steps into this wonderful world of teaching. The Palmes Académiques that I have just received, I owe to you. You have always been in my thoughts and my daughter is named Anne-Cécile in memory of you.

Béatrice Vauban, a librarian at the Lycée de l'Assomption in Bordeaux, wrote: "She was Mother Anne-Cécile and for me she remained so. I remember her as a very good teacher; she was strict and scared a lot of students, but not me, probably because I was good at math. She taught me discipline and hard work, and also how the brain works: one day, she told us how she had found the solution to a problem during an Office, and we were delighted.

Sister Ghislaine de Reyniès, also formerly of Bordeaux, recalls: "She was very close to me during my father's serious illness at that time. I'm very grateful to her for that."

In the 70s, it was Auteuil, with the same discipline, the same sense of organization and the same presence with young people, when the Enseignement Libre entrusted her with the management of ENEP, the Ecole Normale d'Education Physique, ... "Underneath her firmness, I could feel her heart", says Chris.

Every year she received the Trait d'Union from the merged ENEP and ILEPS schools, and Clément Garet, one of the organizers, who had known her well, never failed to add a very personal note. Right up to the end, she would have this newsletter read in line with developments in sports education. After her death, the Alumni Association sent a beautiful offering in her memory; it will be dedicated to the restoration of our chapel.

In Compiègne, her last apostolic Community, she was reunited with Roselyne, a fervent parishioner and former student of ENEP, with whom she, so discreet, exchanged in-depth views

On hearing the news of her death, Roselyne wrote: "Sr. Anne-Cécile had no desire to go to the nursing home and I think she knew that her last years would not be easy. I had agreed with her that I would write to her and she wrote back as long as she could, but then her eyesight began to fail ... She had a strong character. She was very brave and lived her motto to the end; her rosary was always on her wrist or within reach, ready to be used. After waiting for so long, leaving 2 days after Easter was beautiful!"

Anne-Cécile died in the hospital, "abscondita cum Christo" to the end, on Easter Tuesday. It was almost incognito, as the COVID forbade any meetings. Fortunately, Sr. Simone Rouers, who had herself been hospitalized before and who, to our happy surprise, was recovering from a very difficult illness, but in a different ward, was allowed to visit her. It was a fraternal bond, tenuous, but which comforted us a little.

The funeral of Sr. Anne-Cécile took place in our Parish Church at the same time as that of Sr. Marie de L'Enfant Jésus, who died at home on Monday. "She probably held the door open for her!"

Here are these two very different women, the one from the north of France and the one from Lyon, whom the call to the Assumption had made "Sisters", reunited in this final Eucharist of their Easter. How could we not give thanks with them?

The Montpellier Community
(Original in French)

Sister Ana Covadonga de la Croix

María Concepción Castro Vigil

"Ita Pater"

- Born on July 6, 1939, in Gijón
- Entered the Postulancy on October 25, 1959 in Madrid-Olivos
- Became a Novice on May 13, 1960 in Valladolid
- First Vows on September 19, 1961 in Valladolid
- Perpetual Profession September 19, 1966 in San Sebastian
- Died on March 24, 2021 in Málaga - El Olivar

At dawn on April 19, Ana had a severe headache. The nurse on duty gave her some paracetamol and advised her to call her if the pain didn't go away, but when she went back up to her room she found her unconscious. An ambulance took her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with an irreversible stroke. "It's a matter of hours", the doctors said, but it wasn't until the fifth day that she died, her heart simply stopping.

Magdalena, her sister by blood and religion, travelled to Malaga on the same day, the 19th. Let her introduce us to Ana Covadonga.

"Conchita, María de la Concepción, was the second of triplets who were born seven months after 4 brothers and sisters, in a large family where there were 10 of us; but only 7 of us grew up in this united and happy family, and she is the first to leave us. When she was born, she was baptised "Socorro", as we used to say, and wrapped in a towel, she was considered dead. After her came the third and last of the triplets, M^a Covadonga, who seemed to be doing well, although it was she who flew off to heaven as the towel began to move, and so it was María de la Concepción who got through her first years without too much difficulty. This little story explains the reason for her name in religious life: Ana Covadonga. They embraced after almost 82 years! Those who remained, Conchita and "her twin Juan", have always been very close, although they did not resemble each other neither physically nor in their way of being, according to the other brothers.

There's one detail I hesitate to mention: at home, we all knew that she was our father's 'little right eye', and we thought that was great. Perhaps it was because we had seen her grow up so fragile and with so many difficulties. And yet, she grew up to be the strong, hard-working, helpful woman we knew who found it hard to complain.

Like the other "five Castros" ("six Castros" was a "snare" for the school, as we went to school together for several years), she was a student at the Assumption of Gijón. There she prepared for the baccalaureate and, on the morning she was leaving the house to take her exams, she fell down a stone staircase, cutting her forehead badly, which prevented her from taking the exam, which she never took again, even later in her religious life, although she had studied to become a teacher, as was the custom at the time.

While it goes without saying that we received a solid religious formation at the Assumption, what our parents passed on to us was decisive. From them, from their example, we learned to live the Gospel very concretely and with a piety that consisted not only in the daily Eucharist and the family Rosary, but also in reciting the Magnificat, for example, which was not so usual. We used to hear our mother say: "How I wish I had a daughter who is a Religious! And she did have: two. It was in this family environment that Ana Covadonga grew up and it was in this environment that her vocation to religious life blossomed (Word in Bable, Asturian)."

Ana Covadonga had lived in various Communities: Mira-Cruz, El Bibio, Santa Isabel, Tenerife, Pedregalejo and Riofrío.... Although she was a teacher, she spent very little time looking after the children. In keeping with her motto of living in simplicity and service, she found her apostolate in the sacristy, in welcoming groups or simply in the tasks of the Community, always making sure that nothing was missing in the dining room or from the cleaning products. She had a great sense of practicality.

After a stroke that left her blind in one eye, she came to El Olivar six years ago, where, despite her failing eyesight, she continued to work in the house. She was able to respond to every need, making herself available to help the Sisters and the nursing staff.

Lately, the time she spent praying and training with Radio María was a consolation to her. The detachment she practiced was reflected not only

in her health, which had been tested from the start, but also in her material possessions. We found only the bare essentials in her room. Everything was undoubtedly a reflection of the spiritual path she was following.

A Sister's testimony: "I have been very united with all of you during these painful days, awaiting the death of Ana Covadonga, who, since the dawn of Monday the 19th, when it seemed she suffered a massive stroke, has been enjoying the presence of God, even though her body remained on earth with us. We have been very close to the Community and to her family. The consolation we have left is that she was a Sister who gave everything, very devoted to what she was doing and to what she could contribute. At least that's the fond memory I have of her from the many years I had the good fortune to live with her at El Bibio or Pedregalejo".

For the Community, the days when we were able to accompany Ana, each Sister taking turns to pray with her, were a moment of grace, an opportunity to pass on in our hearts what we had experienced during Ana's stay at El Olivar. As Don Pablo told us in his homily on the day of her funeral, April 24, "God comes to meet each person when He finds them mature in love".

We have received so much from you, Ana. You leave us an example of self-sacrifice, service and faithfulness in the little things, such as the delicacy of love, which was your way of loving God and your Community.

Thank you, Ana Covadonga, you will undoubtedly know how to look after your family, whom you carried in your heart, and each and every one of us: Community and nursing staff. Stay tuned...! Knowing that you are interceding with God and Marie Eugenie, we will entrust you with our desires and our worries.

With affection, the El Olivar Community
(Original in Spanish)

Sister Marie Mieko of Nazareth

Nozu Mieko CHO

“In te Domine speravi, non confundar in aeternum”

- Born on April 25, 1922 in Matsue
- Entered the Postulancy on April 10, 1960 in Minoo
- Became a Novice on May 28, 1961 in Minoo
- First Vows on August 11, 1963 in Minoo
- Final Vows on December 8, 1968 in Sumoto
- Died on April 26, 2021 in Minoo

In this Eucharistic Celebration, we come together to celebrate God's fidelity and mercy in the life of our dear Sr. Marie Mieko of Nazareth. She was 99 years old and on the 57th year of her religious consecration.

Sr. Marie Mieko was born Nozu Mieko on April 25, 1922. She decided to enter the convent when she was already 38 years old and became a postulant on April 3, 1960. She made her First Vows on August 11, 1963 and her Final Vows on December 8, 1968. She is survived by her sister, who is also a Religious.

During her 57 years of religious consecration, she had been assigned to various Communities such as: Takamatsu and Minoo. We will always remember her fondly with her quiet manner, her love of God, her fidelity to duty and her gift of preparing beautiful and meaningful flower arrangements in Ikebana style that are a joy to behold.

True to her Word, the Word engraved in her ring, “In te Domine speravi non confundar in aeternum.” “In you, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be put to shame.” (Psalm 71:1), Sr. Mieko lived her Religious Life in simplicity and trust in the love and mercy of God. She was a joyful Sister, full of zest for life. She gave joy to her Community and was close to the young Sisters with whom she would correspond through letters even if she could not speak English. When I visited Japan last year, she was full of enthusiasm at 98 years of age. She even volunteered to go to the

Philippines. She dreamt of visiting all our Communities in the Asia Pacific Province.

She passed on to greater life in faith and serenity before midnight on April 26, 2021, just a day after celebrating her 99th birthday. I am glad that the Sisters were able to visit her before that. We entrust her to the great love of the Father, the grace of His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit, there, where she will surely intercede for us in eternity. In this Eucharistic Celebration, let us celebrate her life, lived to the fullest in full trust and confidence in God.

Sister Lerma, Provincial of Asia Pacific

(Original in English)

Sister Yohani Teresa of Mary

Thérèse Mukamugema

"Per Ipsum, cum Ipso et in Ipso"

- Born on January 1, 1938 (declaratory judgment) in Murambi
- Baptized on September 12, 1946
- Entered the Postulancy on August 14, 1957 in Auteuil
- Became a Novice on September 10, 1958 in Lübeck
- First Vows on February 11, 1960 at Auteuil
- Perpetual Profession on March 18, 1965 in Nyange
- Died on June 13, 2021 in Issoudun

Yo, as we liked to call her, was born on January 1, 1938 (according to the declaratory judgement). The rest would be more certain: Baptism on September 12, 1946, First Communion the same year, and Confirmation on October 7, 1947. Yohani attended primary school in Nyamugali from 1945 to 1946, then in Birambo from 1951 to 1955 and the last year in Nyundo.

From February to July 1957, she spent a few months in Belgium, before starting her religious formation at Auteuil, Paris. When she was a child, she used to say that her vocation was to be a priest, and it took her a long time to understand that this was not possible for girls. Perhaps this is what inspired her to choose the Word inscribed in her ring: "Through Him, with Him and in Him".

From 1961 to 1963, she went to Rwanda to study secondary education and humanities.

The sequence of dates is not clear: from 1971 to 1975, she was a teacher with the Rwandan National Education Service; from 1976 to 1979 she was appointed Headmistress, and then from 1980 to 1994, she was a teacher again recognized as such by the Rwandan National Education Service. Yo also helped out in the Commissariat and was responsible for her Community.

In 1994, a major turning point for many, Yo found herself on the exodus route that would take her first to Tanzania and then to France. Let Yo tell us about her journey:

"For us, the fear increased because we feared that the militias would take revenge on us. Four of our Sisters lived for two months, hidden in the ceiling of a house, being fed by a Hutu family. They were taken away by government soldiers. Our Community was saved by a mayor and his Hutu collaborators; our employees brought food to the refugees hidden here and there in the scrub. The rest of the Community of Birambo was saved by soldiers of the deposed government. The Community of Rwaza was also saved. Part of the Kabuye Community was helped by the FPR. In both cases, people were killed and saved at the same time. I don't entirely agree with the analyses made of the genocide in Rwanda, blaming it on poor evangelization; for me, the problem stems rather from enormous manipulation by a mass of ignorant people.

Testimonies of Faith. Many Hutu or Tutsi Christians have died for protecting or helping Tutsis or Tutsis in solidarity with Hutus. I will name a few by way of example: Father Ananie, nephew of the Archbishop of Kigali, and killed with him by the FPR, the parish priest of Nuramba, Tutsi Bishop Gazabwoya, killed by the FPR along with 3 other Bishops. Some of the Bishops did not want to leave their flocks, as they would have

had time to flee if they had wanted to. The same goes for the people who shared and carried what little they had, risking their lives to feed the refugees. It was thanks to many people of good heart and good will that many were able to escape this genocide.

After the massacre, I realized that neither the government nor the FPR could bring us peace, and that evil would never conquer evil. Our Community was made up of Tutsis and Hutus, and we suffered a lot from each other, but the six of us remained very united. We wondered what to do as the FPR advanced and killed. The militias were also enraged and killing. We were in the middle of 2 adversaries and we didn't want to separate; the Hutus feared the FPR and the FPR feared the militias. We couldn't decide which direction to take. Then a light came to us: let's trust in the Lord and the mayor of the commune who gave us policemen to guard us for a month, as we were being attacked every day. The answer was no, they couldn't get to where we were, but if we got to where they were, they could help us. We risked our lives by going over to the militias, with a lot of difficulty, but we all ended up with French soldiers who took us to Goma in Zaire. I spent three days looking for a Sister, but I couldn't find her because she had already crossed into Zaire. When I was looking for her, I found the bodies of two of my nephews, dismembered. Five days walking in the hills, overwhelmed by grief, suffering from hunger and thirst! For me it was a real miracle to have been able to endure without dying. To sum up, not all the Hutus are bad, nor the Tutsis either, only the extremists who poison each group are bad".

In 1995, Yo joined the Cannes Community. She gave of herself without counting the cost, first to the young people in the public chaplaincy, in the reception center garden, then finally to the sick and lonely, whom she visited, supported and to whom she brought Communion, an attentive and faithful ear, and for some a real comfort in a solitude that was sometimes difficult to live with. In 2009, the house in Cannes was closed and Yo moved to Bordeaux, where she continued her work with lonely and sick people. Yo didn't count her steps or her time. During this time in Bordeaux, while the Community was on a W.E. at Maumont, a Benedictine abbey, a surprise awaited us, and for Yo it was what she would call Marie Eugenie's gift. His name is General Tauzin. Let her tell us about him:

"We had arrived at the abbey on Friday evening and after Sunday mass we went to visit the shop; a tall man approached me: Are you Rwandan? Were you in Rwanda at the time of the events? Yes," I said. He rushed into my arms in tears: "Me too," he replied. I was a soldier. I asked him if he was the one who gave me the tins of food and saved me when I was fleeing with 5 children and who helped me... and he told me that he was a general and commander during Operation Turquoise. I told him how a young soldier had taken me and the children in, then organized my transport by car to join the crowd of refugees. During lunch, Sr. Marie Suzanne had me tell the Sisters what had happened. I was very moved. After lunch, the Community gathered and we spent a good hour with him, who answered our questions and sometimes wiped away a tear. Then the Sisters let the two of us continue our meeting, we exchanged addresses and he offered me his book: "RWANDA. I demand justice for France and its soldiers". I think this meeting was like a gift from Marie Eugenie for her feast day. For a long time, I've wanted to meet up with one of the soldiers who were in Rwanda during those troubled times to express my thanks. On several occasions, they helped me and I was able to reach Goma. Remembering and evoking all that I had experienced was not easy, but my prayer, on that late afternoon of March 10, was a great act of thanksgiving to the Lord".

Sr. Marie Suzanne testifies that it was also a powerful moment for the Community, which shared Yohani's emotions and was able to put words to the rumors and set the record straight... The traumatic experience, the fact that she spoke little about it, that she always refused any help whatsoever to get over her traumas, were surely the cause of this kind of paranoia that caused her to leave for Montpellier, then Issoudun, but there too, Yo didn't stop, visiting neighbors and sick little Sisters.... Another important thing for Yo was her family, as the eldest, she felt responsible for all of them, searching for the missing, accompanying nephews and nieces, welcoming relatives, visiting in Belgium...here again, Yo didn't count the cost. For me, she embodied the words of Marie Eugenie of Jesus: "Love never says enough". Her attention to the smallest, the poorest never ceased.

Let's hear from some of the Sisters who knew her.

Sr. Amalia Margarita: "The first time I met Mama Yohani was in Birambo around 1969 when I arrived in Rwanda; she was studying to become a teacher in our primary schools; what strength of character she showed to succeed! Then we met in other Communities. She was passionate about education, and at that time we were with the children from morning to night; during the week when she was officiating at the Office, she arranged to have the blackboard ready in case she was late, but that never happened! Her love and devotion for the poor was extraordinary, and if necessary she would find time to help them.

Sr. Jacqueline Vanni  re: "Mixed feelings! At last, at the end of her Exodus, and of her desperate flight far from suffering and at the same time at the heart of suffering, as if the distress of others were sucking her in! I lived with our Sister Yo in Cannes, then in Bordeaux, and for a little while in Montpellier, before she left for La Chaume in Issoudun. She had a sort of court of miracles around her, she was very compassionate, came close to the wounded hearts and PRAYED A LONG TIME!!!! SILENTLY!!! The Lord had compassion on her and took her without delay. Knowing that Rekha and Fran  oise were passing through Issoudun at the time of her Passage showed that the bonds of our religious family are really even stronger than those on earth and are part of the hundredfold promised to the one who will have left Earth, Family... for the Kingdom. Go Sister YO! Rest in peace!

Sr. Illuminata Maria Dussenge - Provincial of Rwanda-Tchad: "I had the grace of meeting Sr. Yohani in February 2020, during the immersion of the C.G.P. She had the joy of being able to tell me about her great love for God and for the mission. She recognized the decline in her strength and in her faculties, such as thinking and writing. She recalled the wonderful mission she was carrying out to bring Communion to the sick, in Rwanda and in France. She gave me a pyx and asked me to give it to the Sisters who still had the strength to go into the villages to bring the Eucharist to the sick. She always kept a sense of poverty and obedience, even if she didn't remember much. She told me that from time to time she thought of asking permission to go back to Rwanda for a short time and then return to France, but that she held back because of the expenses.

A Sister who lived with her recounts: "Sr. Yohani Th  r  se was a Sister who loved the poor and knew how to go and find them there where they

were. She made her own the call of the Church and the Congregation "to be the voice of the voiceless"; a concrete example is a poor mute person from Birambo who was killed by strangers, who threw him into the river (Nyabarongo). Sr. Yohani followed this case to look for his body, finally it was found far away and with the help of the local administration, she had it buried with dignity. She knew how to accompany children in difficulty and found time to go to the remote hills to visit them, and she tried to ensure that families got on well together and looked after their children's education. She shared all this during the meetings, and was faithful to her responsibilities in the Community. Sr. Yohani Thérèse, may the Lord receive your soul in peace; in heaven, with the angels and the saints, pray for our Congregation and our two Provinces (France and Rwanda-Chad) that we find the young people who will fill the gaps".

Sr. Anne Bernard: "Sr. Paul de la Croix told me several times that Yohani had saved her during the genocide in Nyange and that she was like her second mother; she was very grateful to her. I understand that after that she was attacked from several sides and that was why she didn't want to return to Rwanda.

Sr. Geneviève Lory: "During her stay at the Ehpad in Issoudun, Yohani continued her missionary life. She radiated her faith and was very close to her neighbors. One person wanted to take Yohani to her mom's funeral mass outside Issoudun, because she was very grateful for her friendly and fraternal presence towards her mom, and continued to come and see her with flowers! Another person, whose family had planned a civil funeral, wanted to stop by the chapel at the Ehpad for a prayer by Yohani, before being taken to the cemetery."

Sr. Marie Christa Gosset: "Dear Sister Yohani Thérèse, as I write your name at the moment when you have just left us, I am reminded of the patronage that your first names inspire in me: John, the Beloved Disciple and the Little Thérèse of Jesus! Aren't they just as much: two people "loved by God" as much as they wanted to and knew how to love Him? I only caught up with you in 2017, in this last phase of your life when, from the depths of your heart, you were reliving the beautiful years of your childhood, in a loving family, in the beautiful land of a thousand hills. The Lord wanted you all to Himself, and you responded joyfully and generously, giving yourself to children and young people, at the heart of

our Congregation of the Religious of the Assumption. Then the Lord gave you the gift of following Him and getting to know Him also in the midst of suffering: the suffering of a war that has scarred your country and your heart for thirty years! It was then that, terribly affected by this violence, you had to leave Rwanda for France, where, beyond your sorrows, you were able to turn towards others and made many friends: Cannes, Bordeaux, Montpellier, and in 2017 the EHPAD d'ISSOUDUN. At the same time, you loved going out to meet others: PSA Sisters, staff, carers, residents, with a smile or a word of encouragement, especially those most affected by disability, loneliness or suffering.

And when you could, you were happy to take part in the activities; we all remember the "OPENING PARADE" for an anniversary at the EHPAD - summer 2018 - where your flexibility was matched by your joy! You also knew how to put on skits with Agnès de Jésus or one of us that revealed a certain 'joie de vivre' in spite of everything. At the most difficult times, if you expressed your incomprehension a little too loudly, you were also quick to ask for forgiveness!

Your consecration to God was always rooted in your fidelity to the Office of Lauds, with your Sisters, Françoise Bernadette, Anne Michel and Emmanuel; daily Mass, when it was possible, and Vespers with our PSA Sisters; your long periods in the Chapel, not forgetting our closeness to the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary, through the recitation of the Rosary. And all this we experienced with you, your Sisters, of course, but also all those you met along the way."

Dear Yo, we regret your sudden departure without our fraternal assistance. But in our faith, we know that you are now in the Peace, the Light and the Joy of your God, our God!

Sister Geneviève Lory

(Original in French)

Sister Maria Anicia of the Incarnation

María Anicia Asunción

“That the world may know that I love the Father.”

- Birth on December 29, 1940 in Manila
- Entered the Postulancy on November 21, 1966, in Herran, Manila
- Became a Novice on August 22, 1967 in Herran, Manila
- First Vows on September 1, 1968 in Herran (Manila)
- Final Vows on December 28, 1973 in Malibay – Pasay City
- Died on June 21, 2021 in Kauswagan (Philippines)

Good morning to all of you who are here and all those who are following us online. To all the Sisters, relatives and friends, today we have come together to celebrate God's fidelity and mercy in the life of Sr. Maria Anicia de l'Incarnacion, born, Maria Anicia Asuncion. She was born on December 29, 1940 to Faustino Asuncion and Crispina Apostol, the youngest and the last of four siblings, three of whom became Religious of the Assumption, namely, Sr. Agnes Cecilia Asuncion and Sr. Julia Asuncion.

She entered as a postulant in Herran, Manila on November 21, 1966 and made her First Vows on September 1, 1968. A year after, she was sent to Malibay in Pasay City to open the San Juan Nepomuceno School and became its first Principal. She made her Final Vows in Malibay on December 28, 1973. She was assigned there until 1980.

The other Communities where she was assigned were San Jose, Antique; Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City; San Simon, Pampanga; Assumption, Antipolo; Baguio; San Lorenzo-Emmaus; Sibalom, Antique; San Lorenzo-School Community; New Castle, England; Provincialate - Puso ng Carmelo; Thabom. Her last Community was Kauswagan in Lanao del Norte, Mindanao.

Among her various apostolic involvement throughout her religious life, she was also assigned as School Principal in San Jose and Bo. Obrero. So many commitments have marked her life.

She was also in-charge of

- Physical Plant,
- Catechetical Instruction in the nearby Central Schools, aide in coordinating Rel. Instruction (CI Programs), Coordinating JVP/AMA Programs, Catechetical Instruction to the Nearby Public School,
- opening to the hearing-impaired Instruction (1986-1987),
- Coordinator-Private/Public School on SPED Programs (hearing impaired Programs); Grade VII/CLE Teacher;
- Faculty Formation (minimal/Assistant in the School (minimal); in charge of the French Sponsorship Program; in charge of the Income Generating Program;
- assistant in the repairs of the retreat house; Facilitating retreats (City Hall personnel/UB 2nd -3rd Yr. HS); MME center; Retreat Facilitator (YR. I, III, IV-College); Replacement... College Theology (Yr. I/IV); Dorm Coord. (HS/College); Spiritual Animator of the maintenance staff,
- Teacher (K1/K2/CLE-10 classes); Prep. /Kinder/CLE Teacher, Sacristine of the School, Purchaser (1995), Sacristine; CLE/Pre-Sch. Teacher, Bayanihan Animator; Social Work: Kids Cabin, Pastoral sessions, sacristine; Faith-Spirituality Team member; CLE Kinder 1&2; Sacristine-School; Prepare First Communicants; Bring Daily Communion to sick/elderly; CLE Kinder II; Sacristine-School;

Even in the last years of her life, she remained active in the apostolate in Kauswagan – she assisted in the school clinic, in the school library; English tutorial lessons to Yr. I students; presence in the school; English teacher; School librarian for 3 months; canteen.

She peacefully passed on to greater life on June 21, 2021, on the 80th year of her life and the 53rd year of her Religious Consecration. Finally, she obtained what she desired, having graduated for her PHD, preparation for

a holy death. The Word in her ring, “That the world may know I love the Father” (Jn. 14:31) has taken new meaning. In her simplicity, her love of the poor, her giftedness and her flaws, we saw how the Father loves her and the many people whose lives she has touched throughout these many years. We entrust her to the love of the Father, the grace of His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit, there, where she will surely continue to intercede for us in eternity.

In this Eucharistic Celebration, let us celebrate her life, lived to the fullest in faith, hope and love. Paalam, Sr. Anicia. Maraming Salamat po.

Sr. Lerma, Provincial

(Original in English)

Sister Teresa of Nazareth

Carmen Elsa Gadala María Babún

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you".

- Born on June 6 1926 in Santa Ana (El Salvador)
- Entered the Postulancy on December 8, 1948 in Bordeaux (France)
- Became a Novice on June 27, 1949 in Forges (France)
- First Vows on August 8, 1950 in Forges (France)
- Perpetual Vows, December 21, 1953 in Managua (Nicaragua)
- Died on June 22, 2021 in Santa Ana (El Salvador)

Elsa was born on June 6, 1926 in the town of Santa Ana, in the department of the same name in El Salvador. Her parents were José Gadala María and her mother María Babún, both of Palestinian origin from the town of Bethlehem. She had a large family and another of her sisters, Meybel, is also a nun of the Assumption. Elsa studied at the Assumption College in Santa Ana, the first Assumption foundation in El Salvador. She was sent to France for her initial formation.

She was a Sister who loved music, played the piano very well and also showed a great love for the life of the Congregation, following Chapters or important meetings with great interest.

She has been assigned to various Communities in El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Colombia, France and Spain, where she studied history.

Very expressive, and with all her being, she expressed the joy she felt at seeing Sisters she loved very much, and with the same strength she expressed her anger or displeasure.

She loved the sea and food.

She was a strong-willed Sister, but at the same time affectionate and very grateful, and when she became mentally weak, there was always a part of her that looked after us. When we ate with her, she made sure that the carers also ate with us.

She was very happy to receive visits from her family and enjoyed the outings and the few moments she shared with them, mainly at Coatepeque Lake.

When she arrived at the Santa Familia Community in 2016, she was suffering from an acute case of Alzheimer's disease, which had caused her to gradually lose some of her faculties such as walking, speech and severe cognitive impairment. This did not prevent her from being able to recognize her brothers and sisters when they visited her, as she had very strong ties with her family.

In the last moments before she met the Lord, her gaze was fixed on the crucifix in her room until she closed her eyes and rested in the peace of the Lord who had come to meet her.

Her funeral took place during the COVID pandemic, which prevented many people and relatives who loved her from accompanying us, but their testimonies express the deep impression she left on the former students and people with whom she shared friendship and mission.

Some testimonials from former students:

"Many years ago, there were 21 of us girls in the classrooms, corridors and lessons of our beloved school, La Asunción de Santa Ana. There we learned to be friends and companions, to fight for our moral principles, to

love the Church, Jesus in the Eucharist, God, the Virgin Mary, our neighbors and to be Assumptionists 'with a purple heart'.

Little by little, we became young girls, professionals, businesswomen, wives, mothers and now grandmothers.

Thank you, Mother Elsa, who for us were Mother Teresa of Nazareth, for everything you have taught us and instilled in all of us, despite the many headaches we must have caused you.

God has called you into His presence on June 22, 2021, the day we celebrate Teachers' Day. For the unforgettable lessons you have taught us, our thanks go up to heaven.

You have crossed the finishing line and we lovingly present you with the Award of Excellence, along with our prayers. May you rest in peace.

I remember you as Mother Teresa. Very cheerful, always attentive to your children, very attached to the spirit of devotion, affectionate, with exquisite manners. I wasn't aware of all the good you did during your stay in Guatemala...". (Aurora Valdizán)

"She was my teacher when she came to Santa Ana at a very young age. She was the sister of my classmate Ana Elizabeth, the youngest of my siblings. Later I saw her in Guatemala and I've always had a great affection for her. (Marta Regina de Fahsen)

"I worked with her for several years when I was teaching. She and Ma. Julia were our coordinators; she taught religion to my pupils. A beautiful person, always cheerful and smiling, I remember her with great affection." (María José Solórzano de Aguirre)

"A Salvadorian nun who worked in primary education in the 1970s and who, in the second period, when she returned to the school, accompanied the development of nursery education with great enthusiasm. She loved her relationship with little girls. She was very concerned about the formation of parents according to the principles and spirit of the Assumption. She was responsible for setting up and follow-up of the parents' school. She kept track of attendance at the talks and, at the end of the school year, if parents had not attended all the talks, she assigned them remedial work before enrolling them for the following school year.

She accompanied the Parents' Council, involving them in service activities, thus awakening in her daughters a desire to help others. She made an effort to obtain donations of medicines from the various laboratories and succeeded in obtaining the collaboration of parents, who were doctors, on Saturdays, by organizing medical days in certain villages. When they were held at the school, it was to help the service and maintenance staff.

It was a very active life, and it was in this way that she showed her love for her neighbor. Now, at rest, she must have received the reward for her efforts and dedication.

Thank you very much, Mother Elsa, for your tireless service to the Community and for the example of hard work you have left us." (Rosa Ana de Valdés).

(Original in Spanish)

Sister Claude Elisabeth

Carmen Ducarme

"I am the handmaid of the Lord"

- Born on July 20, 1934 in Bordeaux
- Joined the Augustines du Précieux Sang, Arras, on October 5, 1963
- Taking of the habit on April 6, 1964 in Arras
- First Vows on August 28, 1966 in Arras
- Perpetual Vows August 28, 1974 Arras
- Died on July 5, 2021 in Paris

Claude Elisabeth was "from Bordeaux and proud of it", as was said at her funeral in the Chapel of the Bon Secours site, rue des Plantes, in Paris, but she had kept a little singing accent.

She was introduced to the Augustinian Congregation on the shores of the North Sea as a seaside heliotherapy institute by a Sister who was also staying there for health reasons.

She joined the Congregation on October 5, 1964 and did her Postulancy and Novitiate at 13 rue Pasteur in Arras. Being of poor health, she did not always keep up with the rhythm of Community life. She often said: "I don't like being pushed around. I just can't do it. That's just the way it is". On the other hand, during the holidays, she was a good walker, especially in Combloux.

When she took the habit, she was delighted with the new name she had been given: that of her brother Claude and that of Elisabeth, whom she had always called "my Mom". She often said that she didn't like the name Carmen that had been given to her.

A seamstress by trade, she once told the Community, when she was already in an old person's home, about her youthful antics with the other apprentices towards the nuns who ran the institution.

Cheerful by temperament, she laughed easily, but could also have dark periods when she would isolate herself.

She made her First Vows, as was the custom, on the feast of St Augustine on August 28, 1966 in Arras.

The Congregation sent her to Lille to study to become an educational assistant, where the headmistress was a nun from the Congregation, "Mère Saint Gab", as the pupils called her, or more officially, Mère Saint Gabriel.

From 1965 to 1971, she lived in Belgium, where the Congregation then had several Communities. At the home "La Goudinière", in the pretty tourist village of Mont Saint Aubert, Claude Elisabeth tried to give the best of herself to the children with family difficulties who were entrusted to her care. The presence of one of them at her funeral in Paris is testimony to this.

She then continued her religious formation by studying to become a catechist at rue de Varennes in Paris, completing what was improperly called her "juniorate" in the Community at 19 rue Saint Maur in Paris.

Sr. Claude Elisabeth then returned to "La Goudinière" for many years. One day, however, the Congregation had to give up this work, to which she was very attached, due to a lack of human resources.

With the merger of the Congregation of Notre Dame de la Compassion with the Augustines, the Centre Educatif Notre Dame in Lyon would be another mission point for Claude Elisabeth, working with young people with social difficulties.

She was posted to Arras for a few years before joining the Combloux Community in Haute Savoie. She was already well acquainted with the chalet "Les Gentianes", where she spent her holidays, as well as running the parish's summer camps for children. What happy memories of those mornings with local children and little holidaymakers! In the temporary absence of the parish priest, we were also responsible for welcoming visitors, which meant we often chatted with the Christian singer Raymond Fau, a regular at prayer evenings in Combloux and the surrounding area.

Every year, for the closing ceremony, a beautiful paper altar cloth was made and solemnly brought to a small church that was so crowded that one of the children sitting on the floor in the choir could only find a place on the feet of the Apostolic Nuncio, who seemed to be delighted with the situation. He came to Combloux every year.

Owned by the Congregation, the chalet "Les Gentianes" was once a holiday home for children and teenagers from the Notre Dame Educational Centre on rue Joliot Curie in Lyon. It then became a hostel for summer and winter holidays. A Community lived there permanently, with varying degrees of integration into the parish and, for a time, into the pastoral sector.

Sr. Claude Elisabeth was delighted to live in such a beautiful setting, devoting herself to praising God. She was particularly fond of the song "N'aie pas peur, laisse-toi regarder par le Christ", which was sung at her funeral. A good singer, deafness was a trial for her. She also loved driving and was not afraid of long journeys.

In 2002, as she grew more tired, she came to Paris to work for the Sainte Geneviève Community, while managing the linen room at the

Motherhouse, working as always at her own pace. "I am the servant of the Lord" was her motto.

Sr. Claude Elisabeth was very attached to her family, who were very grateful to her. As long as she was able, her mother came to visit her in the different Communities where she lived. Her nephews and nieces supported her right up to the end, despite the distances they had to travel.

In 2017, at her request, Claude Elisabeth joined the EHPAD Sainte Monique at the Notre Dame de Bon Secours site. Gradually, other Augustinian Sisters joined her, forming a small Community. She participated in the Community's prayer life right up to the end.

Hospitalized for a few days, she left for the Lord, surprising everyone. Her funeral took place in the Chapel of the Bon Secours site, followed by burial in the Passy-Trocadéro cemetery. She was the first former Augustinian to join the Religious of the Assumption.

Sister Marie Françoise Bisiaux

(Original in French)

Sister Bernadette Emmanuel of Nazareth

Bernadette de Montpellier

"Dominum, Deum nostrum, venite adoremus" – "Come, let us adore the Lord Our God"

- Born on May 17, 1938 in Rivière (Belgium)
- Entered the Postulancy on October 6, 1957 (Auteuil)
- Became a Novice on April 12, 1958 in Lamazou
- First vows on April 30, 1959 in Paris-Lübeck
- Perpetual vows on July 11, 1964 at Val Notre Dame
- Died on July 21, 2021 in Kigali (Rwanda)

Studies: Studies in Religious Sciences, Catholic Institute of Paris/Masters in Roman Philology, Louvain

Mission areas:

- Rwaza 1964-1969, Professor
- Rwaza 1969-1970, Directress
- Birambo 1970-1974, Community Superior / Directress
- Rwaza 1974-1976, Community Superior / Directress
- Kabuye 1976-1985, Provincial
- Higiro 1985-1986
- Birambo 1986-1994, Community Superior/Directress
- Atrone (Chad) 2000-2012, Community Superior/ responsible for pastoral care in Catholic schools in the diocese of N'Djamena
- Kabuye 2013-July 21, 2021 Eternal rest

“Always keep God's presence in our lives.” This was the last thing she wrote and we recognize that her life was like this; her life inspired and bore witness to this presence of God.

Our Sister Bernadette went to heaven on July 21, 2021. She leaves us a testimony of faith and of giving herself unreservedly to the mission. She loved Rwanda and Chad with a passion and gave herself to the people of these two countries. She liked to say that her motivation for becoming a religious was to "become a missionary". The Lord granted her this grace, and she made it bear fruit. Directly after her first vows, she was sent as a missionary to Rwanda. A missionary for life, she loved the little ones, the young people, the students she educated, including many of us.

She loved her Sisters unconditionally, humbly placing herself at their service. She placed her trust in them during her nine years as Provincial (1976-1985) and each one grew in the love of Christ and the joy of serving the Kingdom. She gave her life to us at the time of trials (1994), remaining with us, ready to die with us. In 2008, when the rebels entered the city of N'Djamena, also in Chad, she refused to be expatriated to stay with the Community, despite requests from the Belgian Consulate. The “Parkinson's” disease that took her away gradually weakened her.

After long years of suffering, which she bore with patience, she just went to sleep in peace. The last few days were very painful for her and for those who cared for her, but God purified her and drew her closer in His benevolence. Bernadette had just received a visit from her brother Marc

from Montpellier, and she had moved a little to listen to him and say a few words. Marc left happy, saying that she was the only member of his family he could talk to. "May the Lord repay her a hundredfold"!

I met Sr. Bernadette Emmanuel in Birambo when I was a pupil at the end of my studies. She was a great, humble teacher who knew how to collaborate and who cared about the success of everyone; then in the mission in Chad where she taught me the price to pay to succeed in the mission: "make sacrifices and go beyond the obstacles to meet your neighbor". As the young Superior who replaced her at Atrone, she was the first to come to the spiritual dialogue to show me how much God counts on mediation.

During our last conversation, she summoned up all her strength to get through the dialogue, sitting down despite her fatigue. I had no idea that this was her last gesture of submission to God's will. What a model of obedience, what a love of the liturgy that has been revealed in recent times, where every time she was very involved with the person who came to pray the Office with her. Thank you for having left us this good testimony of loyalty, fidelity to the Master of life to the end. May He grant you rest in His eternal life.

Let the people who knew her speak for themselves...

Sister Marie Sophie, Provincial of Europe: "Our dear Sister Bernadette Emmanuel was able to stay in Rwanda until the end of her life, as she so desired. We know how much the Province of Rwanda-Chad, and especially the Sisters of Kabuye, surrounded her with immense care and sensitivity, day and night. Our gratitude is great, and we keep in our hearts the witness of faith and gift of Sr. Bernadette Emmanuel, her discretion, the intense interior life that inhabited her, her smile. Let us give thanks to God for her life and witness. May she watch over us and intercede for us.

Sister Josiane Emmanuel: "Sister Bernadette Emmanuel loved Rwanda and its people deeply, and we are happy that she was able to live there to the end as she wished. May the Lord welcome her into His home.

Sister Ana Senties: "It was just in this 20th year of the foundation of our NDA college in Atrone that our dear Sister Bernadette flew off to heaven! She was profoundly humble, always discreet but efficient, ready to serve...

Her attitude has always inspired me as to the true leadership that the Assumption speaks of today... She animated our Community and the foundation of the school, leaving each one her place and her responsibility. She had a great love of Christ and was a woman of prayer... True and frank, but gentle in inviting us to give more, to build the Community and the apostolate... She was also a woman of counsel, loved the Gospel and the Assumption... She had a great zeal for the Kingdom, and gave Christian formation to children, then cycled to Catholic schools despite her age. ... visits to neighbors, BECs... She leaves us a great and beautiful example as well as a deep inspiration, may she watch over us from heaven!"

Marcus, layman from Chad: "Sister Bernadette Emmanuel was a tireless missionary despite her age. She was an exemplary educator and formator for me. I'll never forget my first interview in August 2001 to be accepted as the first teacher at the Assumption in Chad. She was close to me and it's thanks to her that I became what I am today. Even when we were in Rwanda, we communicated in writing. This Sister was like a grandmother to me. "Sister Bernadette, you have fulfilled your noble and rich mission very well in the land of Rwanda and Chad, which you loved so much. Rest in peace with God."

Sister Aline Emmanuel: "I met you late, got to know you and worked with you, you beautiful, delicate, silent, profound and compassionate soul. Thank you for the gift of yourself in faith and humility. Thank you for your love for the weak. To God we belong. Farewell, dear Bernadette".

Sister Goretti Emmanuel: "Sr. Bernadette Emmanuel liked to wash the dishes, especially the saucepans... When she was assigned to Mukarange, she had named the Sisters after the same ethnic group. When this was pointed out to her, she corrected it. I saw Sister Bernadette as a Sister who gave herself to God because I saw how noble her family was and how she always preferred simplicity and the last place; she had all the human and spiritual values, her whole life was centered on God and the humble service of her brothers and sisters. She was always positive and full of hope. For me, Sr. Bernadette Emmanuel was a model of a life totally given to the Lord and to others.

Sister Marie Claire: "In her life, she didn't separate people because of who they were, in other words, because of their nationalities. When she finished her term as Provincial, she was given a sabbatical year. Instead of going elsewhere, to Belgium, to recharge her batteries humanly and spiritually, in her humility, she preferred to go to Higiro in Rwanda. I have never heard Sister Bernadette Emmanuel speak ill of the Rwandan people; on the contrary, she identified with them as her own people. She truly lived the mystery of Nazareth.

Sister Domina Marie: "In Chad, Sister Bernadette Emmanuel encouraged others (the Sisters who were with her, especially in times of hardship), she endured all life (from the good to the dangerous), and she gave of herself for others. She was also united with her Sisters. In Rwaza, she saved a child who wanted to commit suicide by jumping into the water; she followed her into the river, risking drowning with her.

Sister Colette: "During the events at Birambo, she helped the Sisters and the people who were with us by giving them hope. When the Sisters took refuge in a single room with the priests, she slept on the floor with them. Out of love for her mission, she wanted to stay with the people. On the way to Butare, the Sisters said to themselves that they were suffering from the problems of their country, but why was Sr. Bernadette suffering with us until the end of the war? But for her it was obvious. She even asked the Community's discernment whether it was time to leave the mission. When the insurgents attacked our Community in Rwankuba, we were with Sister Bernadette. She encouraged us to trust in God and never stopped caring for the wounded. She was truly a tireless missionary. She spoke to God with courage. She had a sense of humor. She suffered and taught us to suffer with trust in God. Her humility meant that she could do any kind of work, even weeding beans... She was remarkably discreet."

Sister Paul de la Croix: "I admire Sister Bernadette Emmanuel for her advice; she was a free and courageous woman."

Sister Ludovika Maria: "Sister Bernadette Emmanuel was a Provincial who never let any sheep get lost. After the war, she went to Togo and elsewhere to meet the Rwandan Sisters. Her feet were swollen from the heat. We have a saint in heaven".

Sister Thérèse Nyiranziza: "She used to say that man has his dignity, and that she should give him back his dignity too. She loved the poor.

Sister Gloriosa: "At Rwankuba we had an orphaned child called Paul, and every Sister had to sleep with him. To relieve Sister Gloriosa at the dispensary, Sister Bernadette spent her week on guard duty with the child. When the child cried, she gave him a bottle. She was very caring and humble. She was courageous because, when there were infiltrators, she dared to take the wounded to hospital.

Sister Céline: "I have so many memories of Sister Bernadette Emmanuel; I saw her as a very profound Sister, inhabited by prayer; she was humble in her words and actions. She had a gentleness and care for others that I have never seen in anyone. I was struck by the little hidden services she rendered, such as clearing or wiping the table, or washing the dishes, even when her physical strength was diminishing. So let's rejoice, because here we have another saint in heaven to intercede for us, for the whole Assumption on its way to the Father's House.

Sister Ancilla Kizito: "Sister Bernadette Emmanuel once wrote to me saying that happiness is a mosaic made up of a lot of little insignificant joys; she sent me a picture of flowers which, for me, signified her humility and delicacy! It's always a joy," she said, "to receive your news, which strengthens our communion. GOD DOES work wonders and surprises; let's put our trust in Him. She had great faith. She leaves us a legacy and an invitation to give our lives to the very end. She loved working and serving in the house, and her humility was great. Her life given without reserve leaves us with the desire to imitate her! May THE LORD grant her rest in peace".

Sister Speciosa: "My first encounter with her was when I was a postulant at the Provincial House. She had just been appointed Provincial. She was a humble Sister, with a face beaming with joy and attentive to each person who approached her. In the Novitiate, she came to work with us in the fields, even though it was difficult for her to stir the soil properly. Later I lived and worked with her at the Birambo school. Times were difficult with the war in 1990. The atmosphere in the Community and even in the school was explosive. With courage, she kept the pupils together and

avoided the divisions that could infiltrate from outside. Sister Bernadette was a peaceful Sister.

Sister Agnès Bukeye: "Sr. Bernadette guided me before I joined Assumption Birambo; she was a humble, simple, loving mother, attentive in a way that comforted and reassured. She loved the poor. I remember in Kabuye, she asked me to go with her to visit an old woman who lived alone. She prepared the porridge herself, lit the fire while I mixed the flour, then sent me to fetch some water to wash her. Then we helped her renew her bedding with banana leaves. I was a postulant; I learned from her her love of the poor and her humility. She was the Provincial Superior and embodied, through her whole life, the love of Jesus for everyone, especially the poorest.

Sister Vénantie Emmanuel: "A self-effacing woman, thinking first of others, forgetting herself and doing everything, naturally, so that others felt at ease and had what they needed. She encouraged everyone (Sisters, pupils, workers) to take on responsibilities and supported them in doing so. She liked to be helped, asked for the point of view of others and took it into account. During her term as Provincial Superior, she made a great effort to learn Kinyarwanda with the help of the New Testament. And for public celebrations (perpetual profession in parishes), she prepared her talks in advance, asking a Sister to correct what she had written as well as her pronunciation because she wanted people who didn't know French to also understand what she was sharing.

She wanted the secondary school pupils to share their intellectual and spiritual knowledge (literacy, catechism, etc.) with the most disadvantaged in the parishes where she worked, especially in Rwaza and Birambo. And when she could, she accompanied them herself. She was attentive to the Christian formation of the workers, with whom she often prayed in the mornings along with a few other Sisters. She encouraged us a lot to go out to the Christians in the remote centers of the Birambo parish, to celebrate the Sunday liturgy there and bring the Eucharist to the Christians. A team went there practically every Sunday.

Sister Thérèse Beata:

"Dear Mother, Sister Bernadette,
You've really been a mother to us all

A loving and devoted mother
Our sincere thanks.

Thank you for your exemplary life
In fidelity to
Your vocation.
For your constant prayer
Your punctuality in the apostolate
And Community life.

Thank you for your dedication and courage
Serving the Lord
Your charity towards us all
In the services entrusted to you
By the Congregation.

For your hidden and selfless services
To all of us.
Gently and without preference,
You knew how to correct without judging
And steer without deviating.

For your example of obedience
And your encouragement in every way
In the simplicity of your heart
And the smile on your face.

For your self-denial
And your uncalculated availability
Your unconditional love
Towards the poor and the little ones.

Your endurance and patience
In sickness and trials

Your ability to adapt to different situations,
Social, climatic and linguistic,
Right up to the oldest age.

For your ceaseless search
About what could help the other
And your amazement at his success.

Thank you for the total surrender of yourself
Into the hands of the Lord
And to His will over you.

Thank you at last for yourself
Who has given you everything
Serving our countries
Which are Rwanda and Chad.

Thank you for everything, Thank you from the bottom of my heart
Shoukran katir! Go in PEACE!"

Sr Thérèse Beata, Kabuye, 26/07/2021

For the funeral of Sr. Bernadette Emmanuel

Sr. Césarie Marie: "Bernadette Emmanuel was a woman of faith and a woman of action, just like Marie Eugenie. Her hidden life, following the example of the family of Nazareth, was one of unstinting dedication to Jesus and His Kingdom. Her missionary vocation merged with her religious vocation. She liked to say: "I became a religious to be a missionary". Sr. Bernadette loved the poor and the service of the poor: at Rwaza, when she was headmistress, she introduced social service into the school program at the catechumen formation center (Centre de Base). In Birambo, between 1989 and 1994, she set up a section for the "economic and social supervision of young people" (EJ) in which she enrolled young people who had completed a post-primary vocational school to prepare them to work with other young people in their community. This section was approved and supported by the Ministry of Education.

Some of the young people she formed have gone on to university to become social workers. They are very grateful for this initiative of Sr. Bernadette Emmanuel. At the 1976 General Chapter, Sister Bernadette Emmanuel of Montpellier was appointed Provincial in place of Sister Marcienne Emmanuel.

During her term of office as Provincial, Bernadette worked for the unity of the Province; she took over the Province after a time of crisis, she set herself the project of restoring confidence in the Sisters, of valuing each one, of stimulating and accompanying the spiritual experience of each Sister and finally of promoting the values of Rwandan culture! She worked to ensure that the Sisters had a committed faith. She led in the sense of helping each one and the whole Province to be rooted in Jesus Christ and to give themselves to the mission because of this faith. Bernadette Emmanuel twice presided over the Union of Major Superiors of Rwanda, where she gave impetus to the country's religious life.

At the end of her term as Provincial, Sr. Clare Teresa, Superior General, offered her a sabbatical year. She preferred to be appointed to a small Community in Higiro, in a simple environment. I think this experience was the most beautiful of her life".

In the animation of the Province, she founded Mukarange, a Community inserted in the poor milieu where the Sisters lived the lifestyle of their environment. "In creating this Community... we wanted to enter into the Congregation's Project: to take a path of incarnation in the footsteps of Jesus: "like Jesus, to share the life of our people, to come closer to people, to become simpler, more stripped down, more fraternal". (Golden Book)

She prepared the foundation of Mwezi, which took place a year after her term of office, also in a simple environment, with an involvement in pastoral work, without any institutions.

I need to say one more thing about the events in Rwanda and Chad

She gave her life to us during our trials in Rwanda (1973) (1994) (1998) and Chad (2008), always ready to die with us and never wanting to leave the mission.

Bernadette! Thank you for your testimony of faith and humble attachment to Christ. Thank you for your humble service to your Rwandan Sisters

when you were their Provincial. Thank you for your passion for the Kingdom, for your love for Rwanda and Chad. Thank you for your closeness to the poor.

May the Lord welcome you into His eternal joy!

Testimonies gathered by Sr. Marthe Ntuyumve, Provincial of Rwanda-Chad.

(Original in French)

Sister Pierre-André

Denise Cabre

"Dominum, Deum nostrum, venite adoremus" – "Come, let us adore the Lord Our God"

- Born on July 24, 1927 in Evin-Malmaison, France
- Entered the Postulancy on September 7, 1955 with the Augustines du Précieux Sang, in Arras
- Became a Novice on March 8, 1956 in Arras
- First vows on September 3, 1958
- Perpetual vows on December 29, 1961
- Died on July 22, 2021 at the Notre Dame de France EHPAD, Abbeville

Denise Cabre was born in a mining town in Pas de Calais on July, 24 1927.

We have little information about her childhood and family life. She had a sister and later a niece.

At the age of twenty-eight, she entered the Augustinian Sisters of the Precious Blood in Arras and did her Postulancy and Novitiate at 13, rue Pasteur. When she took the habit on March 8, 1956, she was given the name Sr. Pierre André, no doubt in memory of members of her family.

During the second year of her novitiate, Sr. Pierre André did her 'immersion' at St Jean d'Arras hospital, which was close to the Motherhouse at the time. Most of the nuns there were Department Heads.

After her first vows on September 3, 1958, she began studying nursing at the Red Cross school. After graduating in 1960, she moved to the Paris region to La Varenne Saint Hilaire, where a Community of Augustinian nuns worked in a private clinic run by a doctor. Sr. Pierre André pronounced her perpetual vows in Arras on December 29, 1961. She soon became Superior of the small Community, a position she held until 1969.

Sr. Pierre André then moved to another region to become directress and Superior of the Community working in the Clinique Notre Dame de France, owned by the Congregation following the merger of the Augustines du Sacré Coeur d'Abbeville. It was here that King Louis XIII of France officially consecrated his kingdom to Mary, hence the name Notre Dame de France. A statue and plaque in the main courtyard of the EHPAD bear witness to this, and the town makes a pilgrimage there on August 15.

The establishment has a maternity ward and, in an older building, there is a small retirement home which sometimes welcomes the nuns' relatives. The Community is young and dynamic, and after work there are plenty of opportunities to stroll along the banks of the Somme or go cycling. One of the eldest Sisters, Sr. Marie Louise Hameau, recounted with delight her experience of learning this "sport" in the vast attic, which years later would be converted to accommodate a Community of elderly Sisters. Pierre André was a highly competent nurse, precise and attentive to the smallest detail. She was a rather personal person, but very affable.

In 1977, Sr. Pierre André worked meticulously in the bursar's office of the Motherhouse in Arras, as she did in all things. She then spent two years at the hospice in Laventie, serving the poorest of the poor as Superior of the Community.

From 1994 to 1996, the Community lived in the green setting of the beautiful residence of Sainte Catherine les Arras, a place of rest and holiday for the Sisters. The Community was very much involved in the parish and the rapidly expanding commune, because it was adjacent to the town of Arras. Sister Jeanne Françoise (who died before the merger) and

her moped, known to all, provide home care day and night. The Sisters were also very involved in the parish: catechism, sacristy, choir...

To care for her mother in her final days, to whom she remained very attached, Pierre André did not leave the Pas de Calais region but arrived in Amettes, a small village of two hundred inhabitants in the hollow of a green valley. The Augustinian Community, after years of ensuring the continuity of the Saint Benoît Primary School following in the footsteps of its founder, is now at the service of a small retirement home and pilgrims to St. Benoît Labre, a native of the area.

From 1997 to 1999, Pierre André returned to Abbeville, but in the meantime the clinic had been closed following the opening of another, larger facility in the town. The premises now housed an old people's home, and it soon became clear that an association would have to take over the building of more functional and spacious premises in view of the demand for accommodation.

She then returned to 13, rue Pasteur in Arras for two years, before discovering the Croix Rousse hill in Lyon, where she deployed her talents as directress of the house and bursar.

In 2005, she returned to Abbeville where she joined the EHPAD Notre Dame de France. She proved to be a very pretty girl, taking great care with her hairstyle as soon as she stopped wearing the veil.

As a result of falls and other problems, she was hospitalized several times, including for two months in 2021. It was in July that the Lord welcomed her home. Her funeral was attended by members of her family, in the chapel where she had prayed for many years.

Sister Marie-Françoise Bisiaux

(Original in French)

Sister Paz Margarita de l'Incarnation

María Paz Alvarez Bardal

"Ad laudem et gloriae Sanctae Trinitatis" – "To the praise and glory of the Holy Trinity"

- Born on April 27, 1939 in San Pedro de los Oteros (Spain)
- Entered the Postulancy on April 7, 1956 at Val Notre Dame
- Became a Novice on April 27, 1957, Paris-Lübeck
- First Vows on April 30, 1958 in Paris-Lübeck
- Perpetual Vows on May 4, 1963, Duekoué
- Died on August 22, 2021 in Collado Mediano (Spain)

Today we'd like to tell you about a Sister who left a lasting impression on us through her kindness and goodness.

Paz was born in a small village in the Province of León: San Pedro de los Oteros. Her parents were farmers, very simple and pious people. From her father, Pacita learnt about the constant daily work, carried out with kindness and love, and from her mother, she learnt about simplicity and silence. She was a quiet woman, devoted to her family.

She had a cousin who was a priest and who took her to the Assumption when she expressed her desire to become a nun. She entered the Apostolic School of León at a very young age and was part of the first group of missionaries.

At the age of 17, following the Lord's call, she did not hesitate to say: "Here I am, Lord, to do your will" and entered the Postulancy at Val Notre Dame. The following year, she was sent to Auteuil to make her Novitiate and First Vows.

She studied nursing and specialized in tropical medicine, a profession she practiced with great kindness and dedication during her early years at the Abomey dispensary in Benin and the Duekoué dispensary in Côte d'Ivoire.

A Sister's testimony confirms what Pacita was like:

"I was lucky enough to live my first years of religious life in Duekoué with Paz Margarita. When I arrived in September 1966, she was already there. God chose Pacita so that she could proclaim Him through her poverty, so that she could live by His presence, so that she could show the humble and simple face of Jesus and so that she could encourage African religious vocations. Yes, three girls have joined Our Lady of Peace. We had no choice because the Bishop of Abidjan would not allow them to join a foreign Congregation.

Paz contemplated the Passion of Christ on many faces as she healed the wounds in our little dispensary... How many adults have looked to her for hope in solving their urgent problems. In Community, we were four Spanish and one French Sister. We lit our area with an oil lamp and fetched water from the "marigot". Thanks to her, the poor made us rich with happiness. She spoke the international language of love and devotion. Thank you for your life among us and your missionary dedication".

As you can see, Paz was a woman with an obvious missionary vocation from an early age, and she was able to realize her dream by being the foundress of our missions in Douekoué and Abomey, where she was a pillar of the dispensary. From Collado Mediano, she has been able to continue helping at the dispensary, with the enthusiasm and hard work of Sister Luz and the collaboration of many village women.

On her return from Africa, she was posted to Huércal-Overa, Almería, where she worked with total dedication with the most disadvantaged in the outlying districts. She was much loved and appreciated by the local people. She visited families and took part in the pastoral work of the parish. She was very discreet, spoke from the heart and knew intuitively what each Sister needed, without sparing any effort.

When she was assigned to Collado Mediano, she gave herself wholeheartedly to caring for our elderly and sick Sisters. She was a woman with an apparently fragile body, but with great strength of spirit, which kept her in active and devoted service, without measuring her time or her strength. We were able to see this for ourselves during her long years of service in this house.

In this village, she was much loved by all the staff in the house and in the outpatient's department: how many walks to the outpatient's department and to the pharmacy! Her willingness and courage to run around to make sure her Sister had what she needed! She was very competent at her job and that gave her security.

The last stage of her life was a reflection of her whole being; she welcomed her decline with the same peace and serenity she had experienced. She could not speak, and all that remained was a smile of gratitude for all that had been done for her. It was a long period of silence, during which we believe she lived off the abundant wealth she had accumulated within herself.

The Community of Collado Mediano

(Original in Spanish)

Sister Felicita Maria of Mercy

Felicita Ntawumvayino

"Jesus loved me with an everlasting love".

- Born on May 19, 1940 in Murunda (Rwanda)
- Entered the Postulancy on June 13, 1961 in Auteuil
- Became a Novice on April 23, 1962 in Auteuil
- First vows on February 18, 1964 in Auteuil
- Perpetual vows on February 18, 1969 in Murunda
- Died on September 5, 2021 in Kabuye, Rwanda

Sister Félicita was born on May 19, 1940 in Murunda, Rwanda. For her initial formation, she went to France, where she pronounced her First Vows in 1964. After obtaining a certificate in missiology in Paris in 1965, she returned to Rwanda. She made her Final Vows in Kabuye in 1969.

In the various Communities where she lived, she was bursar several times (for the Birambo school in 1976-1977 and in Kabuye, from 1983 to 1990).

The events of 1994 led her to Diapaga (Cameroon) for two years. After short stints in Rwankuba, Kereita (Kenya) and Kabuye, she arrived in Auteuil in 1999. She stayed there until 2012, where she was able to develop fraternal relationships with Sisters from all over the world.

In the corridors of Auteuil, you can still breathe in the scent of the little biscuits she used to bake by the hundreds and give as gifts for any occasion. They were simple, like them, made with flour and water. They tasted of fraternity. In the Motherhouse, she was aware of her mission to welcome people. She wasn't just welcoming," said one Sister. She sat with you, with a big smile. She offered food and drink.

Always even-tempered, always smiling, always ready to help, she was one of those people who don't make a fuss but whose presence is deeply comforting.

She worked discreetly, mainly in the refectory and laundry, got things done and never complained.

She loved shopping at the supermarket at Porte d'Auteuil. There, she greeted people she didn't know and got to know them. One day she met a young man who, having married, was making friendly visits to Auteuil with his wife. The couple then set out to walk from the Cape of Good Hope to Jerusalem. They succeeded and even wrote a book about their adventure. This extraordinary aspect did not prevent Sonia and Alexandre from having great admiration for Sister Félicita, which shows the radiance of her simple life.

To feel a bit at home in Rwanda, she tried planting avocado pits at the end of the garden but, alas, they didn't grow!

When she left Auteuil in 2012, the Sister who took over from her in the laundry can testify that she was very attentive and meticulous. She took great care of the equipment and passed on everything with great precision.

On her return to Rwanda, she kept a special bond, full of affection, with the Maison d'Auteuil. After a stay in Mukarange, then in Butare, it was in Kigali-Gikondo, the Provincial House, that she exercised her gift of hospitality.

Here are some testimonies from the Sisters about Sr. Félicita Maria

"She loved Jesus, Marie Eugenie and the Congregation very much. A woman of faith. A helpful, self-effacing Sister who knew how to look after her Sisters and give them joy. A Sister who was always serene, welcoming, compassionate and generous. She was humble, a woman of the heart who knew how to marvel and was always grateful. She always said 'thank you'.

"Féli loved a job well done, and she gave herself unreservedly and to the very end. She was a Sister who never complained. She was discreet and did little hidden favors.

She loved the poor and her concern for others was remarkable. Her joy was in manual work to provide for the needs of the Community (vegetable gardening, making rosaries, knitting, etc.). Jesus had a primordial place in her life".

The laity also benefited from her kindness, the workers with whom she worked testify: "Sr. Felicita loved prayer without calculation. She was calm and joyful. She was orderly. She respected everyone and wanted to talk to everyone. When she was suffering, she didn't want to burden others; she bore her suffering calmly, saying 'Jesus, Jesus'".

And she loved her family in return. Let's listen to her nephew Vincent: "Sister Felicita loved her family. During her leave, she wanted to meet everyone to see how they were getting on. She liked to reconcile people who were in conflict. She was very kind to everyone. Nta jambo ribi ryigeze risohoka mu munwa we numvise (I never heard a bad word from her mouth)."

At the end of her life, Félicita had to face illness... But at that moment, she showed courage without complaining - she moaned and said "Yezu we! She left in peace.

This is the life of our Sister Felicita Maria. She leaves us a good example of holiness.

Sister Beatrice Rose of Marie Auxiliatrice

Beatrice Marie Rose Banatte

"I will call on the celestial bread of the Lord"

- Born on April 23, 1933, in Haïti
- Entered the Postulancy on October 20, 1959 in Philadelphia
- Became a Novice on March 24, 1961 in Philadelphia
- First Vows on July 16, 1962 in Philadelphia
- Final Vows on August 22, 1967 in Miami
- Died on September 14, 2021 in Florida

Sister Beatrice came to Bay Haven, our school in Miami, through her mother who was employed there. I believe that she was born in Haiti and she sometimes spoke about her family there.

She made her Novitiate in Philadelphia and studied there to be a Montessori teacher under Sister Isabel. When we opened Montessori classes at Bay Haven, she was in charge and was very much loved by the little ones and appreciated by the parents.

Sister was very intelligent and very gifted. Besides her success in the classroom, she was an excellent cook, seamstress and artist. She could fashion roses with almond paste, dress dolls in the Assumption habit or as Our Lady of Fatima or the Infant of Prague, make flower arrangements or decorations as she wanted.

She was completely given to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, 'though I, as her Superior, found it difficult to follow her in spiritual dialogue and understand her interior life. While outgoing and easy in her contact with the children and their parents, she was reserved in Community and somewhat solitary.

An anecdote of that period: Mother Elizabeth Mary, one of the foundresses of Bay Haven, had a reputation for hospitality. Many priests and religious asked for lodging with us. One of them was Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Sister Beatrice was rather annoyed that Mother Teresa

habitually occupied her stall in the chapel. “She would sit there writing and writing.”

With age, Sister became quite paranoid in Community and final received an exclastration ad nutum. This meant that she could not live with the Community and could return only with permission of the Superior General. Sister returned to Miami and devoted herself to parish work.

People admired her total givenness to the Lord and many confided in her and her prayers. She created many spiritual friendships. She was especially devoted to the poor and led others to serve them with her. Her life was totally centered on the Lord, prayer and service. She had no other desires or interests. When she was alone, she enjoyed watching Catholic TV programs and following some of her many devotions there. The administrator of the apartment building where she lived expressed the good her presence was for the residents.

Sister Beatrice remained in touch with the Assumption and frequently told us how much she prayed for the Congregation, for Mother General and for all her Sisters. I invited her to visit the Community in Philadelphia when I was there, and she expressed then and at other times, a keen desire to return to Community life. I had to explain to her that she was doing God’s work where she was and that the closeness of others in Community had a bad effect on her. (Her paranoia would make life unbearable for her - and for the Community.) This absence from the Community remained a great sorrow for her and we often had to explain to her friends who challenged us, why she was better off living alone.

Sister had the consolation of caring for her mother during her last days. Her mother was buried with the Assumption Sisters she had known, and Sister Beatrice expressed deep contentment knowing that, when the time came, she would be buried near her mother.

When Sister was no longer able to live alone, Sister Anne Françoise and I went down to help her move into a Catholic nursing home. There, she had daily Mass and spent long hours –sometimes asleep – in the chapel. She contracted COVID but recovered.

The Venezuelan priest who said her funeral Mass told us that Sister Beatrice had raised the money needed to buy his ordination chalice.

Sister Beatrice died shortly before the celebration of her sixty years as a Religious of the Assumption. At her death, she was deeply mourned. (She had found generous donors and paid for the chalice of the priest who celebrated her funeral Mass.)

Sister Clare Teresa

(Original in English)

Sister María Jesús of Jesus Crucified

María Elvira Fajardo González

"Here I am to do your will"

- Born on December 26, 2024 in Camoapa Chontales (Nicaragua)
- Entered the Postulancy on June 9, 1951 in Managua
- Became a Novice on September 14, 1952 in Santa Ana
- First vows on December 27, 1953 in Santa Ana
- Perpetual vows on December 27, 1956 in Managua
- Died on November 6, 2021 in La Palmera (Nicaragua)

María Jesús returned to her Father's house on November 6, 2021, at the age of 96 and after 67 years of religious life.

Her Community: La Palmera, Diriamba, Carazo, Nicaragua. She lived there for many years.

The words that marked her entire consecrated life were "Here I am to do your will".

She was a very reserved and welcoming person. She loved to read, was very hard-working and devoted to serving the Community and the work. Faithful to prayer and adoration, she loved the Divine Office.

In her most apostolically active period, she welcomed young people into schools and looked after elderly and sick Sisters (Santa Ana, Managua,

Guatemala). María Jesus was very attentive to Community life and interested in what was shared about the life of the Congregation and the world. She had a great love of nature and animals, planting fruit trees and feeding the tortoises in the garden. She was a very skillful person, an artist: she embroidered, knitted, made rosaries from the seeds of Saint Peter's tears. She gave what she earned from the sale of her works of art to the Community. She had a long illness and received care from specialists. Her last moments were very peaceful. Her gentle, smiling and loving face left a beautiful memory and much peace in our hearts and in the house. Her death was discreet and silent. A few minutes earlier, she had given us her sweet, gentle smile, telling us that she was well.

We laid her down to rest and a few minutes later she quietly and gently set off for the Father's house.

We thank God for her passage among our peoples, her consecration to the Assumption, in simplicity and joy.

Community of La Palmera

(Original in Spanish)

Sister María Visitación from Nazareth

María Visitación de Castro Castro

"May my heart burn with love for Christ, my God".

- Born on August 2, 1936 in Valdesogo (León - Spain)
- Entered the Postulancy on January 6, 1953 in León
- Became a Novice on February 24, 1954 in Val Notre Dame
- First Vows on March 2, 1956 at Val Notre Dame
- Perpetual Vows on April 30, 1962 in Saint Gervais
- Died on November 27, 2021 in Collado Mediano

Visi was born in Valdesogo, a village in the Province of León, into a large family with strong religious convictions: seven brothers and sisters, five

girls and two boys. Four of the five girls became nuns with us, and Visi was the last one left.

She entered the Assumption at the age of 17 and, at a very young age, went to Belgium for her Novitiate and then to France until she pronounced her Perpetual Vows. In 1968, she returned to Spain where she worked in various schools, in the houses of the elderly Sisters and in the insertions where she was very happy to have a close and simple relationship with the people of the villages.

One of her happiest moments was her stay in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in the villages of Granadilla, Tegueste, La Alegría and back to Granadilla, where she really enjoyed her time with the local people, giving catechism classes and preaching the Gospel to children and adults. But what pleased her most were the elderly, the simplest men and women she visited, to whom she showed her joy and closeness. That's what many of the people in those villages remember, the freshness and simplicity she brought them, because that was her way of passing on the Gospel and making Jesus, to Whom she had given herself, known. She was well known and loved by simple people.

She returned to the peninsula, without much enthusiasm, although she realized that the years pass for everyone. She could no longer go on the long walks she used to take to visit elderly people far away; her health was also beginning to demand a different kind of life.

She came to Collado two years ago, already in very poor health, but without wanting to believe it too much, because she didn't want to be a sick woman. It was difficult for her to allow herself to be cared for, and she did everything she could to avoid having to depend on others, and that's how God called her, when no one was expecting it. Living a normal life, she went to meet the Father and saw her Word fulfilled:

"Let my heart burn with love for Christ, my God".

The Collado Community

(Original in Spanish)

Sister Saint John of Jesus the Redeemer

Denise Amandine Lecapitaine

- Born on July 25, 1923 in Perriers en Beauficel, Normandy (France)
- Entered the Postulancy (Augustines Hospitalières de Coutances) on October 12, 1956
- Became a Novice on October 5, 1957 in Coutances
- First Vows November 22, 1959, Coutances
- Perpetual Vows on May 4, 1963, Coutances
- Died on December 7, 2021, at the EHPAD Notre Dame de France, in Abbeville (Somme)

Sister Saint Jean has left us after a long life. A proud Norman, she lived for many years "in the country", initially as one of six children: three boys and three girls. A few years after the merger of her Congregation with the Augustines du Précieux Sang d'Arras, she discovered other regions of France.

Born on July 25, 1923 in Perriers en Beauficel, she was given the name Denise.

Called by the Lord, she entered the Augustines Hospitalières de Coutances on October 12, 1956. The Sisters provide all the hospital services, welcome orphaned children and receive lady boarders into their convent.

Denise received the Community's black habit and the new name of Sister St. Jean on October 5, 1957. After her Novitiate and First Religious Profession on November 22, 1959, she was assigned as a nurse to one of the hospital wards. On May 4, 1963, still in Coutances, she made her Perpetual Vows.

Small in stature but very lively, her surname, Lecapitaine, suited her perfectly! When she said something, there was no way of replying!

For a long time, she worked at the hospital, located just opposite the Community. For years, the Sisters would go there via the footbridge that spanned the street to avoid any contact, because they were semi-enclosed.

She then joined the Community living among the elderly and worked hard to serve them at the Foyer Saint Vincent, in another part of the city.

In 1995, the Community was closed but not the establishment, and for the first-time Sr. St. Jean left her beloved Normandy for the department of the Somme. She arrived at the Sainte Monique Community in Abbeville. The Augustines du Précieux Sang d'Arras still ran the surgical clinic and maternity unit on the site of today's EHPAD. There are two Communities in the buildings: the Sisters working in the various departments of the clinic and the small retirement home on rue Millevoie, and the older Sisters on the upper floor in the Communauté Ste. Monique.

Major works, under the aegis of the Christian association Temps de Vie, meant that the old buildings were demolished and the beautiful architectural complex that we know today was built. At the heart of the building is the statue of the Virgin Mary, a vow made by Louis XIII.

Sr. St. Jean was one of the first residents. Still alert and active, every day she distributed the mail to the eighty residents on the three floors. For her, it was a chance to say a personal hello to each and every one. A nasty fall landed her in hospital, requiring surgery and the fitting of a prosthesis. To the astonishment of the professionals, she did her rehabilitation with such determination that she was soon back on her feet, but for reasons of caution, she had to give up mail delivery. That didn't stop her from trotting down the corridors, even when she was in pain.

For a long time, she was sacristine of the EHPAD Chapel, doing the Community laundry and providing many other services.

Although she was very discreet about her spiritual life, Sister Saint Jean greatly appreciated the times of spiritual renewal and local retreats offered by Sr. Marie Françoise. She prepared them with fervor and followed them assiduously.

At the end of 2018, she underwent a long period of hospitalization that left many fearing for her life. She emerged weakened but still strong-willed.

She died on December 7, 2021 at the EHPAD Notre Dame de France in Abbeville and is buried with the other Sisters in the cemetery which she visited so many times.

Sister Marie Françoise Bisiaux

(Original in French)

Sister Jacqueline Dekydssteller

- Born on August 22, 1927 in Watten, France, in the department of Nord
- Entered the Postulancy (Augustines du Précieux Sang) in Arras on June 8, 1946
- Became a Novice on December 5, 1946, 13 rue Pasteur, Arras
- First Vows on September 25, 1948 in Arras
- Perpetual Vows on August 21, 1954 in Arras
- Died on December 23, 2021 at the St Albert retirement home, Auchy les Hesdins

It was after a long journey that Sr. Jacqueline came to the end of her earthly life. She was born on August 22, 1927 in a small town in the north of France between Flanders and Artois, some thirty kilometers from the vast beaches of the coast.

The Canons Regular of Saint Augustine once lived there. Was it the seed sown by these canons that led Jacqueline to visit the Augustines du Précieux Sang in Arras on July 8, 1946?

Welcomed, she completed her first Postulancy and Novitiate at the Mother House. When she took the habit on December 5, 1946, she was given the name Sister Marie Blandine. On September 25, 1948, she made her First Vows in Arras. She was sent to La Varenne St. Hilaire, on the outskirts of Paris, to the surgical clinic run by Doctor Débiez, who had asked for nuns. Sr. Marie Blandine returned to Allouagne in Pas de Calais, where the Congregation had two Communities, one at the primary school

and the other at the retirement home for elderly priests from the diocese of Arras. As a nurse, she helped with home care for a year.

In 1951, Sr. Marie Blandine was struck down by tuberculosis, which was still very common at the time. She spent two years in a sanatorium in the Alpes de Haute Provence. There she met up with another Augustinian, Sr. Marie Renée Denneullin (who died in 2018), whose room she shared. Instead of the afternoon silence cure, these young ladies took to the fields for little escapades until the day the staff realized (a confidence made by Sr. Marie Renée in her old age). They went to the theatre. A temperamental formator, Sr. Marie Blandine managed to persuade Sr. Marie Renée to study nursing after her recovery.

After this period of rest, in 1953, Sr. Marie Blandine arrived at St. Jean hospital in Arras, not far from the Motherhouse, where she spent a brief period of immersion before continuing her own nursing studies. With her diploma in hand, she was assigned to the hospital in Arras and to the Community living there, before leaving for the hospital in Abbeville in the Somme department.

In 1961, she was offered the opportunity to attend the Ecole des Cadres in Paris. The following year, she returned to the hospital in Arras, to the Red Cross School, where as an instructor she helped train future nurses. She was much appreciated. Sr. Marie Blandine loved her students and made sure they were good carers. As a result, she has a reputation for being very demanding.

After several stays in the Communities of the Congregation, notably in St. Omer for two years, where she also took part in the training of student nurses. Sr. Marie Blandine left for the Community of Arques, where she worked with the elderly for eight years. She then spent a year in Montreuil sur Mer, then in Arras in the Bethany Community, which welcomes Sisters with health problems, before moving to Boulogne sur Mer, in the Brequerecque Community, next to the Saint Augustin primary school.

When she reached retirement age, Sr. Marie Blandine stopped working and, with the agreement of her Superiors at the time, moved to the Saint Albert retirement home in Auchy-les-Hesdins, where the Augustinian nuns had been requested in 1880 and where they had worked for many years.

Sr. Marie Blandine gave of her time and herself to the other residents. Whenever the opportunity arose, she would come for a meal or spend a few hours on rue Pasteur in Arras, driven by a couple of friends. Then health problems came along, forcing her to limit and then stop her visits to everyone in the retirement home.

In recent years, as her health deteriorated, Sr. Marie Blandine has been well cared for.

It was in the middle of the night of December 23 that she breathed her last into the hands of the Father, surrounded by members of staff. Conscious to the end, Sr. Marie Blandine had the joy of seeing her niece again and praying with Sr. Marie Pierre and two Sisters who had come from Arras to visit her. She recognized them well.

Her funeral was held in Arras, in the Chapel on rue Pasteur, and she was laid to rest in one of the Community vaults in the Arras cemetery.

Sister Marie Françoise Bisiaux

Transcribed from the funeral welcome given by Sr. Marie Pierre
Rousseau
(Original in French)

Sister Monique Thérèse of the Annunciation

Charline Rasoanasolo

"Jesus is the way, the truth and the life".

- Born on March 16, 1941 in Vohipeno (Madagascar)
- Entered the Postulancy (Augustines du Précieux Sang d'Arras) in Ambohimasoa on September 8, 1960.
- Became a Novice on May 4, 1961 in Arras (France)
- First Vows on August 9, 1963 in Ambohimasoa
- Perpetual Vows on September 24, 1968 in Arras (France)
- Died on December 24, 2021 in Fianarantsoa

Charline RASOANASOLO, in Religion Sister Monique Thérèse, was the first Malagasy Sister. She was a pupil at Saint Joseph's School in Ambohimahasoa when the first three Sisters Augustines du Précieux Sang arrived on October 11, 1957. She obtained her Attestation diploma (a diploma issued to Malagasy students at the end of the 5th grade during the colonial era to enable them to teach in primary classes) in July 1959. She was then welcomed by the Augustinian Sisters to teach in September 1959.

It was during this school year that Miss Charline RASOANASOLO expressed to Mother Marie de l'Assumption (Mother Marie Josèphe CROQUET) her desire to one day become an Augustinian Religious. Mother Marie Josèphe made the necessary arrangements and Miss Charline Rasoanasolo was accepted as a postulant at the Saint Joseph Community in Ambohimahasoa on September 8, 1960. She left to do her novitiate in ARRAS where she took the Religious habit on May 4, Saint Monica's Day. Mother Marie Véronique, the Superior General of the Augustinians of the Precious Blood at the time, chose this symbolic name for our Religious family, as a sign of the first country of the Adextra missions. Her particular Mission is: "Premises: the first Malagasy Augustine entrusted to Saint MONIQUE AND SAINT THERESE, patron saint of the Missions".

Once the canonical year was over, Sister Monique Thérèse returned to Madagascar and spent her second year of novitiate in Ambohimahasoa, preparing for her First Vows. During the year 1962-1963, she prepared the little girls for First Communion, accompanied the members of the Eucharistic Crusade and asked to be admitted to temporary vows as she approached the end of her two-year novitiate. Admitted to make her First Vows, she made them in the hands of Mother Marie de l'ASSOMPTION, Sister Marie Josèphe Croquet, delegated by Mother Marie Véronique in the presence of His Excellency Monsignor Gilbert Ramanantoanina, Archbishop of Fianarantsoa in the Community chapel.

Our Sister was sent to the Community of Ampasimanjeva. She set up a literacy program, which was later transformed into a primary school.

In 1966, Sister Monique Thérèse was sent to the Community of the Rue Saint Maurs in Paris 11ème to attend the School for Catechists for 2 years

while preparing for her final vows, which she took in the Church of Saint Jean Baptiste in Arras on September 18, 1968.

On her return to Madagascar, she was sent to the Ambohimahasoa Community.

Sister Monique Thérèse stayed there until 1973. She was then called to the Community d'Ampasimanjeva to replace the Prioress. In fact, Sister Elisabeth Volcke was tired and needed bed care. Sister Monique Thérèse was very involved in the education of the children at the school, and to continue to replace Sister Elisabeth Volcke, our Sister also took on the role of Inspector of Catholic Schools.

In 1973, the General Council created a Regional Council. Sister Monique Thérèse was a member of it for several years, until she left for Guinea. She was also involved in pastoral work, particularly during the preparations for the great centenary jubilee of our diocese of Fianarantsoa. This earned her the position of delegate for the ANALA region. Our Sister also opened secondary classes in Ampasimanjeva.

Her availability gave her the responsibility of opening the Community of Antsenavolo, a monument to 25 years of Augustinian presence in Madagascar, celebrated at Ambohimahasoa on October 10, 1982 and opened on October 17, 1982.

Her presence in Antsenavolo lasted a few years before she was sent to take charge of the Antananarivo Community. After that, Sister Monique Thérèse was appointed with Sister Blandine and Sister Myriam to found Fria in Guinea Conakry. Monique Thérèse stayed there for a few years and after a final stay in France, she returned to Madagascar in 2008 to join the Community and the school at AMBOHIMAHASOA. She taught catechism in the classes there until the start of the 2021 school year, a few months before her unexpected return to the Father in the early hours of December 24, 2021.

What impressed us about Sister Monique Thérèse was her attachment to God, to the Congregation and her desire to remain faithful to the end when she discovered her path.

(Original in French)

Sister Monique-Marie

Claudine, Marie Madeleine Courquin

- Born on July 8, 1932 in Boulogne sur Mer (France)
- Entered the Postulancy (Augustines du Précieux Sang), in Arras on October 1, 1952
- Became a Novice on March 26, 1953 in Arras
- First Vows on August 27, 1955 in Arras
- Perpetual Vows on August 28, 1959 in Arras
- Died on December 26, 2021 in Saint Nicolas les Arras

It was on Christmas Eve that Sr. Monique Marie went to the Father's House. She was born on July 8, 1932 in Boulogne sur Mer, and given the name Claudine at her baptism on July 24.

Very discreet, we know very little about her family: a brother and sister, to be sure, and nephews and nieces.

At the age of twenty, on October 1, 1952, she entered the Augustines du Précieux Sang in Arras. She undoubtedly knew the Congregation through the Communities at the hospital and hospice in Boulogne sur Mer. She donned the white habit of the novices and was given the name Sister Monique Marie on March 26, 1953, after which she began her religious formation.

After her first profession on August 27, 1955 in Arras, Sr. Monique Marie was sent to the Community at Corbehem in the Pas de Calais, which lived in the shadow of the Beghin sugar factory. The nuns, who were nurses and teachers, provided care in the factory, as well as home care in the surrounding area, and taught in the two schools, primary and technical.

Sr. Monique Marie then went to Montreuil sur Mer where the Augustinians worked at the boarding school, the primary school and the Notre Dame de Grâce College. She was the sewing teacher there of Sr. Jeanne Maillard and Sr. Maryse Desplain (deceased). Other Sisters were present in the wards of the city hospital.

The year 1956-57 saw her in Bucquoy, not far from Arras, in the Pas de Calais region, in a domestic school and boarding school, previously run by the Petites Soeurs de l'Assomption (Little Sisters of the Assumption). A huge garden supplied the Motherhouse with redcurrants and raspberries during the summer, sometimes with the help of novices on holiday in the green countryside.

From 1957 to 1986, Monique Marie was part of the large Community of professed Sisters at 13, rue Pasteur, where she carried out various tasks. She was for a long time the chauffeur of Mother Marie Véronique Danicourt, aunt of Sr. Clotilde Danicourt and Sr. Anne Marie and Sr. Véronique Wynands, Prioress General from 1946 to 1964. As a result, she travelled extensively, not only in France but also in Belgium, where the Congregation had two Communities at the time, in Spain for the new establishments in Salamanca and Bilbao, and in Italy when an Italian Sister died while on holiday with her family.

In charge of the Mutuelle Saint Martin for the Augustines, but also for other Congregations and Monasteries, she travelled a lot between these different places in the Pas de Calais region and established relationships with the nuns in particular.

Although it was sometimes difficult to get a word in edgeways, she was at ease and playful with outsiders and visitors. She was also very delicate, offering a novice a small bouquet of daisies on her twentieth birthday, at a time when the election of the Mistress of Novices as Prioress General was shaking up the novitiate and keeping everyone busy.

An excellent cook, seamstress, gardener, mechanic... and a handywoman who can assemble furnitures, Monique Marie knew how to do it all and was often called in to help, but you just had to wait!

In 1986, she left Arras for another long stay at the Maison Généralice, 68 rue des Plantes in Paris. She continued to work for CAVIMAC and Mutuelle St Martin in a small office on the 1st floor, and also did many other things to serve the Communities, even though she often had the impression of not being recognized and of doing nothing!

After the capital, the Limousin countryside welcomed Monique Marie in September 2000 to the Foyer Jean Vingt Trois for nine busy years in the

kitchen, where she often had to fill in at the drop of a hat, in the garden, at the reception desk, in everything that goes to make up a large residence that receives the public. In the absence of the maintenance man, she mows the huge lawns with the ride-on mower, which was a real pleasure for her.

The burden was becoming too heavy for the Community and the finances of the diocese of Limoges, so the decision was made to close and Sr. Monique Marie returned to the Pas de Calais, and more specifically to Arras. There were still three Communities in the big house for a few years and almost fifty Sisters.

Once again, she worked as a driver, but soon found it difficult to find familiar routes. She did the Communities' laundry and many other services, but at a slower pace.

Further signs and hospitalization in February 2018 led to a decision to move her to EPHAD in Saint Nicolas les Arras, where she joined other Sisters from the Congregation. This was a great trial for her, because she did not understand the reasons for it, and any dialogue became difficult, if not impossible.

At times, she kept her beautiful smile and her kindness. Her spiritual life was a secret to us, as she shared the Gospels and her spontaneous reflections.

Her funeral was held at 13 rue Pasteur in the chapel where, for so many years, she prayed with the Communities.

Sr Marie Françoise Bisiaux

(Original in French)

Content

Sister Maria Noêmia of the Holy Face	1
Sister Joseph Oiso of the Blessed Sacrament	4
Sister Sonia Teresa of the Mother of Sorrows.....	6
Sister Guisela of the Eucharist	8
Sister Francine Feutrie.....	11
Sister Marie Laëtitia of the Presentation.....	13
Sister Béatrice Marie of the Heart of Jesus	19
Sister Marie Cécile of the Blessed Sacrament	22
Sister Marie Marthe of the Visitation.....	28
Sister Marianne Eulalia de Jésus.....	32
Sister Florentina María of Christ the King	33
Sister Maria Alessandra of the Sacred Heart.....	36
Sister Marie de l'Enfant Jésus	39
Sister Anne Cécile of Nazareth	43
Sister Ana Covadonga de la Croix	46
Sister Marie Mieko of Nazareth.....	49
Sister Yohani Teresa of Mary.....	50
Sister Maria Anicia of the Incarnation	57
Sister Teresa of Nazareth.....	59
Sister Claude Elisabeth	62
Sister Bernadette Emmanuel of Nazareth.....	65
Sister Pierre-André	75
Sister Paz Margarita de l'Incarnation	78

Sister Felicita Maria of Mercy.....	80
Sister Beatrice Rose of Marie Auxiliatrice	83
Sister María Jesús of Jesus Crucified	85
Sister María Visitación from Nazareth	86
Sister Saint John of Jesus the Redeemer.....	88
Sister Jacqueline Dekydspoter	90
Sister Monique Thérèse of the Annunciation	92
Sister Monique-Marie.....	95
Content.....	98



This edition was produced by the Archives, with the help of many editors and translators whom we would like to thank.

17, rue de l'Assomption - 75016 - Paris - France
Tél +33 (0) 1 46 47 84 56 - Fax + 33 (0) 1 46 47 21 13